

# THE JOURNAL

Friday, April 14, 2006

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**Sports** Albany softball victory over Salesian is long overdue [C1]

**Arts & Leisure** Lawrence Hall looks into insects' role in crime scenes [C12]

## Principal's passion lands him close to home

Former folk singer Ron Rosenbaum switched to promoting harmony among students in his adopted hometown

**Editor's note:** This is the first in a occasional series of interviews with principals of local schools.

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

Three years ago, Ron Rosenbaum was principal at Oakland Technical High School when he decided to take a pay cut and work at Albany High School.

"One of the attractions is that I live here, my kids went to school here," said Rosenbaum, an Albany resident for 30 years. "I know the community."

The community has also gotten to know Rosenbaum as oversees changes at Albany High

School — ranging from its schedule of classes to a new mental health curriculum.

Thirty years ago, teaching young students was a change for Rosenbaum, then a folk singer with a chemistry degree. He signed up to be a substitute teacher after moving to the Bay Area from his native Brooklyn.

That led to 19 years working full-time in tough East Oakland schools, where he discovered a fondness and talent for counseling teenagers.

Rosenbaum eventually moved into an assistant principal position at Berkeley High. He was also principal of Alhambra High School in Martinez for five years, and Oakland Tech High School for two years before coming to Albany in 2003.

In Albany, teen drinking and mental health have emerged as a focus in the high-performing school district. Rosenbaum said

a new mental health curriculum and testing for inebriation at dances are helping address the issue.

**Q:** The most talked-about issue this year was teen drinking and the Berkeley party that led to several stabbings and the death of an El Cerrito man who had attended Albany schools. Where does Albany High School go from here?

**A:** We have had several forums and a PTA meeting, and a forum put on by the Cougar (student) newspaper. We've been dealing with ongoing breather issues, to have dances safer and student events safer. If you look at (the April 5) school board minutes, we finally got a new health curriculum onto the first reading, and it should be approved on Monday.

See ROSENBAUM, Page A11



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

**ALBANY HIGH PRINCIPAL** Ron Rosenbaum took a pay cut three years ago to become principal of his hometown high school. Teen drinking and mental health have emerged as major issues of concern at the school.

### PROFILE

- **NAME:** Ron Rosenbaum
- **TITLE:** Albany High principal
- **EDUCATION:** Administrative credential and master's of education from Cal State Hayward, 1994; master's of science in school and community counseling from Cal State Hayward, 1980; master's in chemistry from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, 1970; bachelor's in chemistry from Brooklyn College, 1967
- **RESIDENCE:** Albany
- **CAREER:** Principal at Oakland Technical High School, 2001-2003; principal at Alhambra High School in Martinez from 1996 to 2001; assistant principal at Berkeley High School, 1994-1996; head counselor at Berkeley High School, 1991-1994; counselor at Brewer Edna Middle School in Oakland from 1980-1990; taught math, biology and physical science in Oakland schools from 1971 to 1980



MARK DUFRENE/STAFF

**CITY OF EL CERRITO** Economic Development Program Specialist Dwayne Dalman, left, El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce President Tracy Giles, middle, and El Cerrito Mayor Janet Abelson meet with Nancy McCarthy, vice president of the El Cerrito branch of the Mechanics Bank, on Monday. The city and chamber are teaming on a business-visitation program.

## City looks to enhance business climate

City and Chamber of Commerce officials reach out to community stakeholders, listen to and address their concerns

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

Nancy McCarthy, the vice president of the El Cerrito branch of Mechanics Bank, saw firsthand this week what the city is doing to reach out to businesses.

McCarthy met with Mayor Janet Abelson along with Tracy Giles, the president of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce board, and city redevelopment staffer Dwayne Dalman. The meeting was part of a visitation program the city has launched with the chamber to listen to and address the concerns of local businesses.

For McCarthy, the visit was an example of El Cerrito's growing reputation as a business-friendly city.

"That hadn't always been the case," said McCarthy, who has been with the El Cerrito branch for more than two years and has personally helped small businesses in the city. "And we're attracting solid, long-standing successful businesses, as opposed to mom-and-pop shops that come in and out within a year."



MARK DUFRENE/STAFF

**DWAYNE DALMAN**, who worked for five years helping the city of Concord with redevelopment, is now helping El Cerrito to implement its marketing plan.

The visitation program is just one element of the city's effort to further improve El Cerrito's business climate.

"What we're demonstrating to our businesses in our community is that in fact we are a team," Abelson said. "And we are working together and want to know what it is business owners in the city need and want, and what we can do to enhance their environment."

That effort also includes a commitment from the city's re-

development agency to spend about \$1.2 million over the next five years on programs intended to help businesses thrive. And four months ago, the agency hired Dalman to act as a point person for business concerns as well as to help implement a plan to attract new businesses to the city and retain them.

That economic development plan is undergoing revisions, and will be the subject of an April 18 meeting between the city's eco-

### IF YOU GO:

- **WHAT:** A Taste of El Cerrito
- **WHEN:** 5 to 9 p.m., Sunday, May 7
- **WHERE:** Community center, 7007 Moeser Lane
- **INFORMATION:** The taste is still accepting vendors for the event as well as auction items. Call 510-233-7040.

conomic development board, two City Council members and Richmond representatives.

"I feel like they are being proactive, they are creating plans," Giles of the Chamber of Commerce said. "And they are really going out to businesses to hear what they have to say."

"They're not relying on a professional organization to provide information for them. Their feet are on the street."

Over the past three weeks, Giles, Dalman and Abelson have met with several business owners and representatives, including those at Peet's Coffee and Tea, Barnes and Noble and Wells Fargo.

The visits are also part of an effort by the city and chamber to collaborate on addressing business concerns and promotion.

See BUSINESS, Page A8

## Express bus route preserves service

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

The route served by Line 43 will see no cuts in service when AC Transit begins implementing a new rapid bus line through Oakland and Berkeley this summer.

That's according to a plan that will go before the AC Transit board at 2 p.m. Wednesday, agency general counsel Ken Scheldig said.

A new Line 8 will replace segments of Line 43 as well as Line 15. That's satisfying Berkeley and Albany leaders who protested a reduction of the number of buses on the 43 line from four to three an hour.

### IF YOU GO:

- **WHAT:** AC Transit board meeting
- **WHEN:** 2 p.m. Wednesday
- **WHERE:** 1600 Franklin St., Oakland
- **INFORMATION:** 510-891-4777

"Their issue was level of service, going from 15 to 20 minutes," Tony Bruzzone, the manager of service planning for AC Transit, said. "This preserves 15-minute service and allows us not to have duplicate service elsewhere."

See BUS, Page A10

## School board decides to stick with exit exam

By Shirley Dang  
STAFF WRITER

After warnings from state education officials and lawyers, the West Contra Costa school board voted Monday against giving diplomas to students who fail to pass the California high school exit exam.

State law demands student pass the English and math test to graduate from high school starting this year.

Board member Dave Brown

proposed last week that the 32,000-student West Contra Costa school district grant diplomas to seniors who meet credit requirements and either pass the test or complete a senior project.

The proposal, the first of its kind in the state, failed 4-1.

"We are not a diploma mill. We don't just give them away," said school board member Karen Pfeiffer. "You earn them."

See EXAM, Page A10



GREGORY UROJAGA/STAFF

### Day at the races

**CATRINA AND DAIRWIN JOHNSON** get their racing cards from volunteer Teresa Brooks during El Cerrito High School's "Day at the Races" fund-raiser for the senior class at Golden Gate Fields on Sunday. Some 111 attendees paid \$35 each for admission to the event, including preferred valet parking and more. The El Cerrito Grad Night will be held at Golden Gate Fields this year because the high school is currently under construction and has no gym.

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### Martin Snapp

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE



## NEWS BRIEFS

## El Cerrito

## Tally of landscape ballots to begin

The results of the El Cerrito lighting and landscaping election may be known by late next week, Karen Pinkos, the assistant to the city manager, said.

"Once we have a result, we would certify the election at the next City Council meeting on May 1," Pinkos said.

An independent engineering firm will count the ballots beginning Tuesday at a conference room at City Hall at San Pablo and Manila avenues during business hours. The counting, which may take up to three days, will be open to the public.

The council will hold a public hearing on the election on Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the community center, 7007 Moers Lane. Property owners have until the end of the public hearing to turn in their ballots.

The city is asking property owners to increase lighting and landscaping fees to keep up with inflation. The city implemented the fees in 1988.

About a third of approximately 9,000 ballots were returned as of Tuesday, April 11.

For more information, call Pinkos at 510-215-4302 or e-mail [kpinkos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:kpinkos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

— Alan Lopez

## Residents invited to meet with supervisor

Residents are invited to ask questions and discuss issues with Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 22 at Maggie's cafe, 11740 San Pablo Ave. at the Del Norte Place apartment complex in El Cerrito.

Free coffee will be provided. Residents are invited to buy their own breakfasts, but it's not required.

The breakfasts with Gioia are held monthly at restaurants and cafes throughout West Contra Costa County. Call 510-374-3231 or go online at [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis1/](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis1/).

— Alan Lopez

## City considers round-about

The El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency is considering installing a round-about for vehicles at Colusa and Fairmount avenues as part of a package of improvements in that business district.

"We think traffic can actually move quite well with a round-about there," Public Works Director Jerry Bradshaw said. "But we're cramped on space, and we need to acquire parcels of land, primarily from the (Sunset View) cemetery."

The agency is planning to spend \$700,000 on the traffic change as well as new street trees and light poles on Fairmount Avenue and a crosswalk raised about four inches on Fairmount at Pomona avenues. The agency is also looking at realigning traffic lanes next to Harding Elementary School.

The design for the Fairmount Avenue project, which would extend from Colusa to as far west as the El Cerrito Plaza BART station, may begin by the summer, with construction possible by the winter, Bradshaw said.

Call Bradshaw at 510-215-4382 for more information.

## Board hires extra officers for school

The West Contra Costa school board has hired extra law enforcement officers to work on high school campuses for the remainder of the school year.

The city of El Cerrito will provide an additional officer to patrol El Cerrito High School and Portola Middle School at a rate of slightly more than \$8,000 a month.

The district also agreed to hire three Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office deputies. They will work primarily at De Anza, Kennedy and Richmond high schools but could be deployed throughout the district.

According to a draft agreement, the district will pay the Sheriff's Office close to \$39,000 per deputy for three months, or \$117,000 total.

The school board approved the contracts 4-0 last week. Board member Dave Brown was absent at the time of the vote.

— Shirley Dang

## Albany

## Council to consider closing streets

The Albany City Council will consider Monday a recommendation to close the four streets leading to and from El Cerrito Plaza.

The closure would require an amendment to the city's general plan. That could take six to nine months, community development director Ann Chaney said.

The Albany traffic and safety commission has recommended that the city close Talbot, Cornell, Kains and Evelyn avenues. The closure idea was a response to increased traffic on the south side of El Cerrito Plaza as well as a condominium complex that El Cerrito approved in that area.

In 19 years, the street closures would result in "excessive long delays and vehicle queuing" at certain times at three intersections on San Pablo Avenue, according to a street closure study.

Council meetings are held at 8 p.m. at the City Council Chamber, 1000 San Pablo Ave. For more information, call 510-528-5760.

— Alan Lopez

## Supervisors update pot club rules

By Chris Metinko  
and Rebecca Rosen Lum  
STAFF WRITERS

Contra Costa County and Alameda County supervisors on Tuesday took divergent steps down a previously charted — and largely parallel — path toward the local future of medical marijuana.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors agreed to place an urgency moratorium on any new medical marijuana dispensaries in the county's unincorporated areas. That action comes after County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, the sponsor of the moratorium, heard dispensaries might soon open in Pacheco, Rodeo and an unspecified East County location.

On the other hand, Alameda County supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved a contract for an outside company to provide identification cards to that county's medical marijuana users.

Just last week, Alameda County supervisors agreed to a map that breaks down the county's unincorporated land into

three areas, with no more than one dispensary allowed to operate in each.

The geographical mapping goes along with a 2005 decision by Alameda County supervisors to limit the number of clinics in unincorporated areas to three, and to set up a permit application process.

Neither county's decision affects dispensaries within incorporated cities.

The interim Contra Costa ban gives the county 45 days to study traffic congestion, noise and other secondary effects of so-called "pot clubs." The ban could be renewed for another 10½ months, and then another year beyond that.

Until now, zoning for these dispensaries has been lumped in with retail establishments. "This is a relatively new land use," said Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia of Richmond. "It's new ground."

The moratorium would not restrict either of the two dispensaries, in El Sobrante and Pacheco, already operating legally in Contra Costa's unincorporated areas.

## BART stations postpone new parking fees

By Mike Adamick  
STAFF WRITER

BART has delayed charging new parking fees at several East Bay stations, giving commuters a brief reprieve following a month of train delays and evacuations.

Originally set to begin charging \$1 to park at the Orinda station this past Monday, BART pushed back the date to April 24 so the transit system can work out administrative kinks.

"We're tying up loose ends," said spokesman Linton Johnson. "We want it to roll out as smooth as possible."

At the Lafayette station, a \$1 charge was set to take effect April 24, but has been delayed until May 8, Johnson said.

Fees at Walnut Creek and the Dublin-Pleasanton station will follow in May and June, while

"We're tying up loose ends. We want it to roll out as smooth as possible."

— Linton Johnson

Berkeley stations will begin charging in June and July.

The parking charges were approved last summer as BART sought to bring down a projected four-year deficit of \$100 million.

A \$1 parking fee at nine stations — and a \$5 fee at the popular West Oakland station — was seen as part of the deficit solution, as well as a fare surcharge and lower raises for BART workers.

Still, the idea of paying for what has always been free has

ried commuters — especially at stations where the amount of nonreserved parking spaces has shrunk.

BART commuter Cliff Watts parks at the Orinda station every day, and says that because the number of nonreserved spaces — for \$1 — have given way to reserved spaces, commuters will be forced to shell out \$4 each day to ensure they have a spot.

That comes out to an extra \$1,000 a year to use BART every day, he said.

"It's like they're trying to slip something through," Watts said.

Johnson said the parking charges, and the new single-day reserved parking program that lets commuters book a parking spot before they arrive at the station, were approved last summer following at least two public hearings. Notices were also given

at stations at the time. "This was all laid out to the public," he said.

Commuter Bill Herbert more reserved spaces at Pleasant Hill station will have the same effect, forcing commuters to pay more or risk not having a space. Parking in the free is often not an option, because it fills up so quickly.

"It's very inconvenient," said.

BART has already begun implementing its parking program at several stations. The ridge, Lake Merritt, Macdonald and West Oakland station fees last year.

Mike Adamick covers transportation. Reach him at 510-945-4745 or [madamick@cttimes.com](mailto:madamick@cttimes.com).

## EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

## Monday, March 24

■ **SHOPLIFTING ARREST** — Police arrested a 23-year-old Richmond man on suspicion of stealing shoes at Copeland's at El Cerrito Plaza shortly after 2:45 p.m. Police caught up with the man at San Pablo and Eureka avenues.

■ **FORGED CHECK** — Shortly after 12:40 p.m., police arrested a 46-year-old Oakland man on suspicion of attempting to pass a forged check at Bank of the West on the 11100 block of San Pablo Ave. Police say the man was given the check after selling someone fake marijuana.

## Tuesday, March 28

■ **AUTO THEFT ARREST** — Shortly after 9 p.m., police arrested a 25-year-old Oakland man on suspicion of possessing a stolen car after he was stopped for driving erratically at El Cerrito Plaza. Police say the man, who initially gave a false name, was driving a car stolen from San Anselmo.

## Monday, April 3

■ **MITSUBISHI MISSING** — A resident on the 1000 block of Kains Avenue reported that his red 2000 Mitsubishi Eclipse had been stolen. A check found that it had been impounded.

■ **VANDALISM** — During the night, someone vandalized a black 1993 Toyota 4-Runner on the 800 block of Hillside Avenue by smashing a rear window.

## Tuesday, April 4

■ **DUI** — At about 1:15 a.m., officers stopped a gray 2000 Dodge on San Pablo Avenue near Carlson Avenue for erratic driving. They arrested the driver, a 25-year-old Richmond man, for DUI.

## Wednesday, April 5

■ **ITEMS STOLEN** — A resident on the 500 block of Evelyn Avenue reported that during the night someone took items off their porch that were intended for the Salvation Army. There were no witnesses.

■ **DUI** — At about 11:30 p.m., officers stopped a gray 1992 Nissan on San Pablo Avenue near Central Avenue for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 28-year-old Oakland man, for DUI and driving without a license.

## Thursday, April 6

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — A resident on

## Monday, April 3

■ **AUTO BURGLARY** — A stereo and purse were taken from a vehicle on the 200 block of Sea View Drive sometime between 8:30 p.m. on April 3 and 8 a.m. the next day.

## Wednesday, April 5

■ **BURGLARY** — Police say two men in their late teens ransacked and stole property from a home on the 2600 block of Brooks Avenue sometime between 9:15 and 9:55 a.m. The men pried open a rear window after knocking at the front door.

■ **4RUNNER STOLEN** — A 1996 Toyota 4Runner was taken from the 5600 block of Jordan Avenue sometime between 7:30 p.m. on April 5 and 11:30 a.m. the next day.

## Thursday, April 6

■ **PRELUDE STOLEN** — A 1995 Honda Prelude was taken from the 1000 block of Liberty Street sometime between 9 p.m. on April 6 and 9 a.m. the next day.

## ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

the 700 block of Hillside Avenue reported that someone had gone through her unlocked car while it was in the carport.

## Friday, April 7

■ **DUI** — At about 2:30 a.m., officers stopped a green 1993 Mazda on San Pablo Avenue near Cedar Street for expired registration. They arrested the driver, a 41-year-old Folsom woman, for DUI and driving with a suspended license.

■ **FORD STOLEN** — During the night, someone stole a white 1999 Ford van parked on the 900 block of Taylor Street. There were no witnesses.

■ **SCOOTER STOLEN** — An Albany woman reported that around 4:30 p.m. someone stole her 350 Scooter parked at Cornell School. There were no witnesses.

## Saturday, April 8

■ **TRIPLE ARREST** — At about 1:30 a.m., officers responded to the 900 block of Kains Avenue on reports of a group of men who appeared to be checking car doors and grouping around a red truck with the door open. They were seen walking north on Kains Avenue. Officers arrested three men: a 19-year-old San Pablo man for disorderly conduct and vehi-

cle tampering, and an 18-year-old Richmond man and a 23-year-old San Pablo man for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

■ **STOLEN CORD** — During the night someone stole an extension cord from a business on the 500 block of Cleveland Avenue and hid it in a pole. It was possibly someone from the transient camp nearby.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — At about 3 p.m. someone broke the window of a tan 2005 Toyota Prius parked on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard and stole a purse from inside.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 3:30 p.m. officers arrested a 55-year-old transient man for being drunk in public when he was found passed out in front of a business on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue.

## Sunday, April 9

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night someone broke into a gold 1999 Toyota Camry on the 500 block

Gun room pried open after receiving an alarm there at 12:40. There was no loss to the business located on Carlson Boulevard, police said.

## Sunday, April 9

■ **VOYAGER STOLEN** — A 1990 month Voyager was taken from 8500 block of Buckingham Drive sometime between 10 p.m. on April 8 and 10:30 a.m. the next day.

■ **INTEGRA STOLEN** — An Acura Integra was taken from the 3200 block of Belmont Avenue sometime between 10 p.m. on April 9 and 10:30 a.m. the next day.

■ **COROLLA STOLEN** — A Toyota Corolla wagon was taken from 1800 block of Ganges Street sometime between 10 p.m. on April 9 and the next day. The vehicle was last found on Manor Circle at Elm Street.

■ **HONDA RECOVERED** — A 1996 Honda recovered a stolen 1996 Honda 8800 block of Bonnie Drive vehicle had been reported stolen Richmond the previous day.

— Alan Lopez

of Stannage Avenue and stole from inside.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Officers arrested a 37-year-old Richmond man on the 500 block of land Avenue for an outstanding Contra Costa County warrant for injury hit and run and weapon possession in the amount of \$25,000.

■ **DUI** — At about 7:30 p.m., a tender at a restaurant on the 100 block of Solano Avenue reported a man and a woman were intoxicated, hitting the bartender and causing a disturbance. They were seen leaving in a red 2001 Chevy. Officers located the car on the 100 block of Ramona Avenue and arrested the driver, a 40-year-old bell man, for DUI.

## Weekly summary

Officers responded to 161 civil and stopped 109 vehicles or persons, issuing 29 citations and 80 tickets. Firefighters/paramedics responded to two fires and eight medical emergencies.

## THE JOURNAL

4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806 • 510-262-2724

Craig Lazzaretto, Hills editor

Subscriptions are \$30 per year if carrier-delivered within the Journal's circulation area. Mail subscriptions within the United States are \$75 for six months or \$150 per year. To subscribe or report a delivery problem call 800-598-4637.



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# Neighbors

## Sharks, Blackie's Pasture very delightful in Tiburon

Editor's note: Martin Snapp is taking the week off. This past favorite originally ran Aug. 2, 2002.

THIS IS A COLUMN I've been waiting to write for almost a year — ever since this time last summer, when I got a call from a friend who said, "You've got to get over to Tiburon and look at the leopard sharks! There must be thousands of them!"

So I gathered up my nephew Ariel and my nieces Anya and Yael, and off to Tiburon we went. Sure enough, the place was like a leopard shark convention. They were swimming so close to shore, we could reach out and touch them if we wanted to — which, not surprisingly, we didn't.

They're only 2 or 3 feet long — much too small to be any danger to humans. And instead of one fin, they have three. And, yes, they have spots, just like leopards.

The kids were entranced. I was entranced. It was the closest any of us will ever get to a wild animal in its own habitat.

Take the San Rafael Bridge to Marin, then take 101 South to Tiburon Boulevard. Turn right on Blackie's Pasture Road and take it to the end. Park and walk the 20 yards or so down to the water. Try to get there around high tide, because that's when they swim closest to shore.

And that's only half the fun, because after you're finished hanging out with the leopard sharks, there's one more thing to do: visit Blackie's Pasture.

It's an authentic piece of local history. You probably won't read about it in any textbook; but it's history, just the same.

Once upon a time, there was a horse named Blackie. He was a real horse, and he lived from 1926 to 1966. He spent most of his working life as a cavalry horse. In those days, the Army established its horses at the Presidio during the winter. When spring came, they saddled up, rode to Yosemite, and patrolled the park all summer. In the fall they made the long trek back to the Presidio. Blackie was one of those horses.

Later, he worked as a cutting horse at rodeos. In 1938 he retired at the age of 12, and that's when his real fame began.

His owner, Anthony Connell, kept him in his private pasture at the corner of Tiburon Boulevard and Trestle Glen Road. Since, the only road in or out of town goes right by there; you couldn't pass without seeing "Old Blackie." He was hard



MARTIN SNAPP  
Snapp Shots

to miss: By his retirement he had a pronounced sway back, which got more pronounced every year.

The local residents soon began to feel that Blackie belonged to all of them.

In spite of his sway back, they admired Blackie for his military air and the pride that came from once being a great horse.

Mr. Connell would stop by every day to feed and water him, but so did many others. Visitors of all ages could be seen regularly feeding Blackie carrots, sugar lumps and hay.

February 27, 1966, is a date that local residents have burned in their memory. That was the day Blackie collapsed and had to be put out of his misery.

"I can still remember driving by and seeing all these people huddled around Blackie, trying to ease his agony," says longtime resident Larry Smith. "It was one of the saddest days of my life."

As news of Blackie's death spread, residents looked for ways to express their grief. The Marin County Health Department granted them special permission to bury Blackie in his own pasture.

Children from nearby homes walked over to bid silent farewell to their old friend and erect a makeshift cross to mark his resting place. Other children planted flowers on his grave. Still other children wrote poems in his memory. And from grown-ups, wreaths and other floral tributes poured in daily.

Blackie's grave is still there, still covered with flowers and tended by a group of volunteers who call themselves "Blackie's Brigade." In 1995, a life-sized bronze statue of Blackie was erected in the pasture.

Blackie lived 40 years. That's a long time for a horse. Local residents are convinced that it was love — from old-timers and visitors alike — that sustained him. And that love obviously endures, 35 years after his death.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2768 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

### FACES & PLACES

## Scholar program honors teacher

A scholarship program has been created in honor of Ed Hill, an Albany High School art teacher and coach for more than 30 years who died last year. Funded by memorial donations from family, friends and colleagues, the scholarship program will provide opportunities for AHS students to participate in workshops, classes and other activities outside of AHS classes that will enhance art skills and expand the breadth and depth of their art experience.

Applications for scholarships are available from Sarah Samonsky, chair of the AHS Art Department, and from AHS counselors. The deadline for application is May 15, 2006.

Donations to the Ed Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund can be sent to the Albany Education Foundation, 1320 Solano Ave., Suite 203, Albany, CA 94706. Checks should be made to AEF with a notation about the Ed Hill Memorial. For more information, contact Sally Outis at 510-558-6823.

— Craig Lazeretti

### EASTER CELEBRATION:

New Life Church will hold a free Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Clubhouse in Fairmont Park, 715 Lexington Ave., El Cerrito.

Kids of all ages are invited to



TYLER HOARE, SARAH SAMONSKY AND DIANNE MCNENNY, from left to right, hold applications for the new scholarship created in memory of former Albany High School teacher Ed Hill, who died last year. They are standing in front of a portrait of Hill painted by Maya Sanchez Haller, an AHS graduate and current art school student. Hoare is an Albany artist and longtime friend and colleague of Hill; Samonsky is chair of the AHS Art Department; and McNenny is president of the Albany Education Foundation.

share in an afternoon of fun with Easter egg decorations and crafts, prizes, special music and more. An egg hunt with games will be open to kids ages 2 through 12.

For more information, contact 510-868-1935 (message/FAX) or 510-932-5101 or e-mail info@NewLifeInJesus.net.

— Craig Lazeretti

### AUTO REPAIR WORKSHOP:

A free auto repair workshop will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 at Marty's Motors, 10929 San Pablo Ave. south of Potrero in El Cerrito.

The workshop is intended to teach women how to protect themselves from auto repair rip-offs. Mary Kaliski, the owner of the shop, said. Men are also welcome.

There will also be free automotive repair guides and

coupons and refreshments. Those wishing to attend should call 510-235-6000.

— Alan Lopez

### CHAMBER LUNCH:

Mitch Oshinsky, El Cerrito's community development director, will speak at the next El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce lunch on Tuesday, April 25.

The event will be held at noon at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club. Those planning to attend should let the chamber know by April 21.

The El Cerrito chamber is also planning a mixer on Wednesday, April 26 at the Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave. in Albany. The event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, call the chamber at 510-233-7040.

— Alan Lopez

### AIRPLANE-DESIGN CONTEST:

Students have until Tuesday, April 25 to enter an airplane-design contest sponsored by Albany High School sophomore Lea Cohen. The contest will award \$100 to the winner.

Drawings, along with half-page explanations of the designs, should be submitted. Local judges will select the winner based on uniqueness and creativity.

The cost to enter is \$3, with proceeds donated to the Little Farm in Tilden Park.

Entries should be sent to Flying for Farms, P.O. Box #6468, Albany, 94706. They should include a name, address and telephone number. The winner will be notified by May 16.

Checks should be made out to the Future Leaders Institute.

— Alan Lopez

### RESIDENT HONORED:

El Cerrito resident Cio Hernandez, a bilingual licensed mental health practitioner for the County of Marin Health & Human Services, was honored recently as Civic Center Volunteers' 2005-2006 Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year. In her eight years in the County's Teen Health Clinic, Hernandez has managed and inspired numerous teen and adult volunteers.

— Craig Lazeretti

Have an item about a scholarship, an award, an event or another experience that you'd like to share with other Journal readers? If you have a photo — print or digital — we can use those, too. (Sorry, we cannot return print photos.) Send items for Faces & Places to the editor by e-mail: journal@cctimes.com, or mailing to: The Journal, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

## Wet weather takes toll on the park system

THIS YEAR'S seemingly endless winter rains have generated an equally endless list of needed repairs in the East Bay Regional Parks, and the storm damage includes some big-ticket items.

The district staff is in the process of touring around with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to determine what assistance the federal government may be able to provide.

According to Anne Scheer, the district's chief of maintenance and skilled trades, there are 127 storm damage-related projects on the list so far, mostly slide repairs on internal park roads and trails. No parks have yet been closed because of access problems.

The most expensive repair project may turn out to be the one at Crown Beach in Alameda, where a lot of sand has been lost because of wind and wave erosion.

Erosion has long been a problem at Crown Beach, because decades of shoreline development have changed tidal and wave patterns. The beach was first restored in 1982, when more than 200,000 cubic yards of sand were dredged from the Bay floor between Alcatraz and Angel Island, then deposited at Crown.

Since then, more sand has had to be added from time to time. It's especially important, because the beach essentially protects Shore Line Drive from wave erosion.

Another large project is at the entrance to Las Trampas Regional Wilderness on Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon. A slide has narrowed the road from two lanes to one, and exposed a water line. The park's staging area is still accessible.

There's a similar situation at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch. The only practical way to reach park headquarters is by



NED MACKAY  
Park It

way of Somersville Road, which passes through a narrow gorge along the way. That's where a slide has reduced the road to a width of one lane. Repair is critical, because Somersville Road is how school groups access the park for educational programs.

According to Scheer, the park with the most storm damage is Briones Regional Park south of Martinez. Briones has lots of fallen trees, muddy roads, and some large slides blocking the way.

Some of the park repairs will have to wait until the dry season, when equipment can get in to do the work. The Dis-

trict has a regular roads and trails crew, which grades all the park fire trails annually.

Not counting the work required at Las Trampas and Crown Beach, Anne gave a rough estimate of more than \$4 million as the cost of repair of damage from the record-breaking rainfall.

If you've finished your income tax returns, you can celebrate by joining Naturalist Nancy Krebs on a 5½-mile hike through Redwood Regional Park in Oakland from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday. The hike is on the 2006 Trails Challenge list, for those who have enrolled in that. Dogs are welcome, though you should bring a leash for your canine friend.

The hike is free. Meet at the Canyon Meadow staging area, which is accessed from the park's Redwood Road entrance. For more information, phone 510-521-6887.

For a shoreline birding experience, join the Wednesday Walkers from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on April 19 at Hayward Re-

gional Shoreline. Meet at the west end of West Winton Avenue in Hayward for an easy three-mile loop through Cogswell Marsh. No dogs on this hike, please. For more information, phone 510-796-0199.

Ned Mackay writes about East Bay Regional Park District sites and activities. E-mail him at nedmackay@comcast.net.

### PET OF THE WEEK

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

Dogs: 1-year-old male black and white Boston terrier mix; 9-year-old black and tan Bernese mountain dog mix; 1-year-old female tan and black Malinois mix; 3-year-old female tricolor Australian shepherd mix; 11-month-old male white and brown Labrador mix; 3-year-old female tricolor Keeshond mix; 11-month-old male black and tan Rottweiler mix; 2-year-old female tan border terrier mix; 1½-year-old male yellow Alredale/Labrador mix; 1½-year-old female brown and white terrier mix; 2-year-old male liver and white pointer/springer spaniel mix; 5-year-old female black and tan Rottweiler/German shepherd mix; 8-year-old female black and tan dachshund.

Cats: 14-week-old female torti Maine coon mix; 6-month-old male gray Korat mix; 6-year-old male tabby domestic short hair (DSH); 9-month-old male black and white DSH; 2-year-old male flame point Siamese mix; 5-year-old male brown tabby Norwegian forest mix; 2-year-old female orange and white domestic long hair (DLH); 3-year-old female torti DSH; 1-year-old female tabby DSH; 4-year-old male brown tabby DSH; 10-year-old female blue Norwegian forest mix; 3-year-old male black and white DSH; 1-year-old female gray tabby DSH; 1-year-old female black DSH.

Adoption fee: dogs \$125; cats \$100 — including spaying, neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is located



BERKELEY-EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

HUGO is a 4-year-old male Burmilla/gray tabby domestic short hair mix, and may be available for adoption from the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. This affectionate, playful boy would be a fine addition to any household, but Hugo would love to live in a home with other cat companions. For more information about Hugo or other animals available for adoption, call or visit the Humane Society.

at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Its hours are 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information: www.berkeleyhumane.org or call 510-845-7735.

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EDITOR • CRAIG LAZZERETTI

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# THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

## GUEST COMMENTARY

### Waterfront initiative restricts voters' options

By Bob Outis, Geoffrey Piller and Jean Safir

IN AN OPINION piece published April 7, Robert Cheasty suggested that The Journal has "lined up with the pro-development side when it comes to the Albany waterfront." There are two basic problems with this assertion.

First, The Journal focused on the need for a thorough planning process. It did not advocate for development. It made the following principal points:

- The city should conduct a careful analysis of competing visions of the Albany waterfront.

- It is essential that city leaders provide voters with an impartial look at the ramifications of any plan.

- There is currently too much speculation and too little evidence, so independent experts need to take a close look at competing visions.

The Journal then listed 10 critical questions to be asked about any waterfront proposal, including questions about the impact on traffic, existing retail operations and housing issues.

If asking for an independent analysis of tough questions causes one to be branded "pro-development," we stand with The Journal because we believe Albany officials and voters are entitled to no less.

Secondly, Mr. Cheasty's reference to the "pro-development side" carries with it an implied presumption that there are only two sides to the Albany waterfront debate — a pro-development side and his side. It follows that every person who is not on his side must surely be on the "pro-development side." He and his associates may find this useful in framing the debate. But it is counterproductive to the process that The Journal has sought, and it derogates the intelligence, integrity and independence of Albany officials and voters.

In defending the proposed "Albany Shoreline Protection Initiative," of which he and Norman La Force of El Cerrito

are primary authors, Mr. Cheasty failed to rebut The Journal's assertion that it envisions a process "in which a coalition of environmental groups decide what's in the best interests of the people of Albany and restrict any discussion of the waterfront's future to their vision." Nor did he disclose that the initiative contains restrictive general plan amendments, and creates a planning "task force" stacked with representatives of that coalition. The Journal was correct in concluding that the initiative would restrict the range of waterfront land use proposals that could be presented to voters under Albany's Measure C.

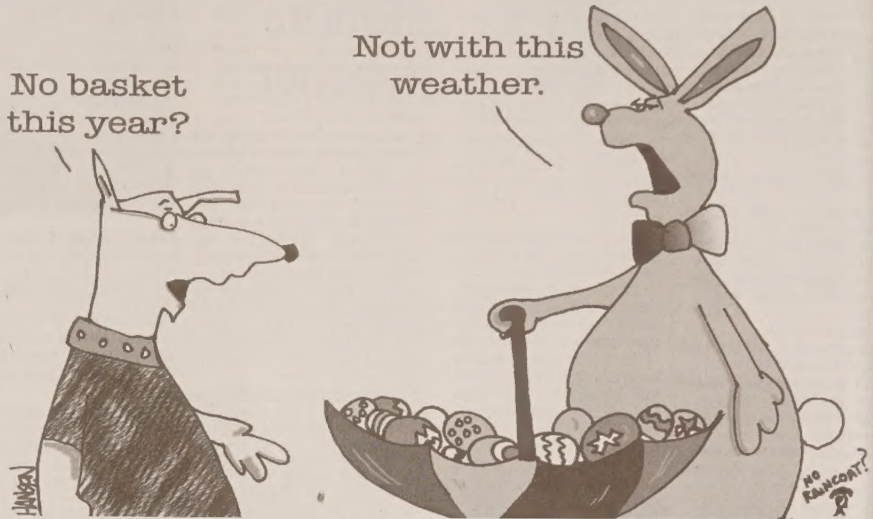
The wisdom of The Journal's position became even more evident this past week when Mr. Cheasty presented the initiative to the Albany Waterfront Committee. He refused to answer questions about who was involved in drafting the initiative and what kind of study or analysis had gone into developing its terms. He did so by proclaiming that these and other questions were not questions at all. To his credit, he did admit that he knew little of the history or makeup of one of the groups that would be given a seat on the planning body created under the initiative. Mr. La Force, who joined in the presentation as Mr. Cheasty's attorney, offered no greater insight into those questions.

So, The Journal got it just right when it (1) called for an open, fact-based planning process that is informed by independent analysis and (2) contrasted that process with the restrictive and loaded process mandated by the proposed initiative. We thank The Journal for its insightful commentary. It is just what Albany officials and voters need as they consider and resolve difficult issues concerning the Albany waterfront.

Outis, Piller and Safir are residents of Albany.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

## HAPPY EASTER



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Don't give City Council a blank check

If El Cerrito homeowners vote for the city's proposal for a new Landscape and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD), they will be voting for a 59 percent permanent increase in lighting district property taxes. That's just the beginning.

The bill will grow each year, forever, at the rate of inflation. The total tax for this year is based upon estimates of costs for every conceivable expense for what's on the district wish list. Included is a 6 percent annual reserve fund that the consulting engineer concedes could grow to equal annual expenditures.

The engineer's report arbitrarily assigns "special benefits" to people with lots larger than 5,000 square feet. A slightly smaller benefit is listed for smaller lots, although he concedes that those owners are more likely to use public recreation facilities.

The city manager's spokesperson says 70 percent of the city's residential lots are in the special benefits class. Since all the city and its businesses benefit from street lighting and park/tree maintenance, it is reasonable to consider LLAD costs a legitimate and necessary expense for the city government. Yet, the city proposes to shift cost to individuals while reducing its contribution from \$400,000, to \$70,000, this year.

Each vote is weighted according to the dollar amount of the owner's proposed new tax, a fundamental shift from the usual one vote per person in most elections. Why?

Since city income has been increasing each year for four years, the council's mention of possible public safety cuts (if the measure fails) is a scare tactic.

The only public hearing is April 17, the last day to vote. Don't give the El Cerrito City Council a blank check to reach its goal of raising property taxes "in perpetuity" (forever).

Kathleen Lander  
El Cerrito

### Refuse to sign petition

Thank you for your March 31 editorial that endorsed objective information about development proposals for the privately owned land at the Albany waterfront. There are two more points that voters should know.

The first is the substantial expenditure — which the Albany city attorney compared to a project that costs about \$700,000 — of Albany taxpayer funds required by the Albany Waterfront Specific Plan Initiative for its planning effort. Approximately \$700,000 is realistic, given the need for objective, complete, professional data for planning.

The second point is that the taxpayer expense is not even mentioned in the initiative. It is a lot of money to avoid mentioning, especially when Albany has inadequate park maintenance, unfunded pension liabilities, storm sewer maintenance, street repairs and unfilled police positions competing for tax dollars.

Why is the taxpayers' cost not mentioned in the initiative? It's not because the initiative's authors don't know about it. At the Feb. 6 Albany City Council meeting, council members expressed strong concerns about Albany footing this big bill.

I can only conclude that the substantial size of this taxpayer expense, and a craven reluctance to make it explicit, are the reasons the expense is not mentioned in the initiative. This omission indicates a blatant disregard for fiscal impact and

for telling Albany residents an important truth.

These are strong reasons, in addition to those in your editorial, to oppose the initiative. I urge all to refuse to sign a petition for this initiative.

Caryl O'Keefe  
Albany

### Many unanswered questions

An entry in the "News Briefs" section of the March 17 Journal mentioned that the El Cerrito City Council instituted a fee for lighting and landscaping in 1988.

Does the City Council require the consent of homeowners only to increase this fee? Are the beneficiaries of the use of the fee only homeowners? Does paying the fee entitle homeowners to use of landscaped areas that will not be available to people who do not pay the fee?

If blocks of homeowners vote "no," will those blocks not receive maintenance of lighting and landscaping?

The "ballot" sent to property owners strikes me as a public relations ploy. If it were truly a ballot, wouldn't the name of the voter be submitted separately from the vote itself? As it stands, the name and address space is directly below the vote on a piece of paper that is to be sent in, as a whole.

If this is truly a ballot, why was all of the information sent with the yes/no page all in favor of increasing the fee for lighting and landscaping? Isn't it the American way to send information from at least two different points of view to the voters?

What was the cost to send out eight full pages of promotion, plus the return envelope with postage? Could that money have been put to direct use to maintain lighting and landscaping?

The "hearing" on this issue is scheduled on the day the ballots are due; the ballots may be turned in at the hearing.

Is this really a hearing at all? It appears to be another promotional attempt, rather than being a forum in which people can ask questions and express opinions enough in advance of turning in the forms to allow people to make considered judgments of the information.

The same "News Briefs" entry mentioned the reason for increasing the lighting and landscaping fee was to keep up with inflation. What is the rate of inflation compared with the increase in interest rates that people who pay adjustable rate mortgages have to pay? What is the rate of inflation compared with the increase in the price of gasoline that we all have to pay?

Why is the city of El Cerrito in need of extra revenue, in light of new developments along San Pablo Avenue that increase property tax revenues and business taxes?

## WRITE TO THE JOURNAL

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

Mail: 4301 Lakeside Dr., Richmond, CA 94806

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e-mail: wletters@octimes.com

Please write JOURNAL LETTERS on the envelope, at the top of the fax or in the subject field of the message.

I urge my fellow El Cerrito residents to mark "no" on their LLAD ballot.

Constance H. Cole  
El Cerrito

### Run parasites out

In response to Lubov Mazur's question in his April 7 letter, "What more could they (Magna Entertainment and Caruso Affiliated) have done to make the whole plan better?" — the plan to push Measure C, that is — one need simply understand the state of affairs of these two entities.

Magna, a Toronto-based company owned by gambling magnate Frank Stronach, is struggling. This gambling and horse-racing syndicate has been bleeding money. From the Washington Post: "CEO Thomas Hodgson said earlier this month that the company will post a loss in the first quarter and may not be firmly in the black for two more years." Hodgson, CEO for 13 months, will be gone soon. The company unloaded \$64 million in assets last year and lost more than \$105 million.

Dollar Rent A Car heir Rick Caruso has more than 35 commercial and retail properties, and is incredibly wealthy. Caruso was a major contributor in the campaign to elect Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

There is one answer to this dilemma: Halt any plan to develop this valuable land until we have competent leadership in Albany. They are simply not up to the task and don't have the resources.

We don't need foreign gambling syndicates telling us what to do with our most valuable assets, especially a company that can't keep its balance sheets straight.

Either Magna sells this land to Albany at a price we can deal with or we invoke eminent domain to run these parasites out.

As far as Caruso and his "worldwide" credentials, I say we send them back to Los Angeles and let them exploit the southland. We don't need them, and we should definitely not be hanging with them in their garden party.

Robert L. Mendez  
Albany

### Ends don't justify means

Admirably, Robert Cheasty has volunteered much of his time and talents to the city of Albany over the years. I find it hard to reconcile that Robert Cheasty with the one who wrote the guest commentary in the April 7 Journal.

He accuses those Albany residents who love their city and who want thoughtful development on the waterfront of misinforming people. He uses the word "mail" as a scare tactic, when the proposal he dislikes is no more a mail than beloved Fourth Street is in Berkeley.

He attempts to create a nefarious link between waterfront development and Republican political agendas, when the two have no connection. He dismisses Albany's overdue public works projects as so many wish-list items that will magically be completed ... not to worry.

But the most astonishing thing Cheasty does is mislead people about the initiative he supports. It will cost Albany residents millions, and it will forever banish any kind of interesting and appropriate development on our spectacular waterfront.

It is a great disappointment to watch respected Cheasty work for his vision of the waterfront using these types of disreputable tactics. The ends do not justify the means.

Elnora Cameron  
Albany

## YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Assembly

**Loni Hancock:** (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530. 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

### AC Transit

**Joe Wallace:** Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

### Stage Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at [www.stagesd.dst.ca.us](http://www.stagesd.dst.ca.us).

### County Supervisors

**John Giola:** (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: [dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us](mailto:dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us).

**Keith Carson:** (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: [kcarrson@co.alameda.ca.us](mailto:kcarrson@co.alameda.ca.us).

### Cities

**El Cerrito:** City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: [citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

**Albany:** City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

**Kensington:** Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

### School boards

**West Contra Costa Unified School District:** 510-620-2246

**Albany Unified School District:** 510-558-3766

## NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### City government

**ALBANY**  
City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Ave. 510-528-5710

Mayor Allan Maris  
**City Council** — Meets at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays at the City Hall Council Chamber.

**Community Development** — Includes planning, building and maintenance. 510-528-5760

Web site: [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org)  
**EL CERRITO**  
City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. 510-215-4300.

Mayor Janet Abelson

**City Council** — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Mondays in the Garden Room of the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. 510-215-4305.

**Public Works** — Report problems with city trees and sidewalks, burned-out street lights, potholes and clogged storm drains. 510-215-4382.

**Recycling Center** — 7501 Schmidt Lane. 510-215-4350.

Web site: [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org)

**KENSINGTON**

**Municipal Advisory Council** — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Addresses zoning and land-use issues. 510-526-5546.

**Police Protection and Community Services District** — Meets at 7:30

p.m. the second Thursday of each month, except August, at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Addresses Police Department, Parks and Recreation and solid waste issues. 510-526-4141.

**Fire Protection District** — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 510-527-8395.

### Emergency numbers

**Albany, El Cerrito or Kensington fire, police or medical:** 911.

**Non-emergency**

**Albany fire** — 510-528-5770

**Albany police** — 510-525-7300

**El Cerrito, Kensington fire** — 510-215-4450.

**El Cerrito Police** — 510-237-3233.

**Kensington Police** — 510-233-1214; business line 510-526-4141.

**Sewer problems** — Stage Sanitary Service. 510-524-4667.

**Water services** — East Bay Municipal Utility District. 510-287-1380, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or 510-835-3000 after 4:30 p.m.

### Libraries

**Albany** — 1247 Marin Ave. Open noon to 6 p.m. on Mondays; noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed Fridays and Sundays. 510-526-3720

**El Cerrito** — 1000 San Pablo Ave. Open noon to 6 p.m. on Mondays; noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed Fridays and Sundays. 510-215-4300

**Kensington** — 217 Arlington Blvd. Open noon to 6 p.m. on Mondays; noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed Fridays and Sundays. 510-527-8395



# Toys at library enhance learning for children

"The short, important answer (about toys in libraries) is that these things are part of reading readiness — manipulating real items is essential to children's learning."

— Contributor to posting on PUBYAC (Public Libraries for Young Adults and Children) about the use of toys in libraries



JULIE WINKELSTEIN  
At the Library

EVERY DAY as I sit at the children's reference desk, I can hear various clicking, clacking and other noises as children play with our toys. The most popular ones are the large Legos, while the surprise box and the busy box run a close second.

The dolls and cradle get less attention, but many times at the end of the day, I find one of the dolls tucked lovingly into bed or lying on our small child-size couch, covered with a blanket. The soft hand puppets are also in high demand and — as if they could get around on their own — I find them in strange places in the library, such as behind the checkout desk or sitting next to a computer.

In addition, there are the toys I keep behind the desk, on a low shelf where a bored child can easily browse them. Here there is a chess set, a Mankala board with shiny colored glass pieces, some easy puzzles and a few challenging educational toys. Of these, Mankala is by far the most popular, although lately our dominoes have been getting more attention. And, of course, the old standbys of crayons and paper are always in demand, by all ages.

When I started as the children's librarian at the Albany Library, there weren't any toys out for the children. I have slowly accumulated the ones we have, and they have been extremely popular. The Legos have been surprisingly versatile — ages 2 to 13 create towering stacks of these indestructible, brightly colored pieces. And I have learned one can create quite a hefty gun from them — something I hadn't expected, but probably should have.

The surprise box — which has four ways to pop up hidden figures — has an allure I noticed when my children were small. In fact, a ball, a pan of water and the surprise

box were my children's favorites toys.

So I am pleased to see that no matter how the trappings of childhood change, children stay the same.

The Albany Library is one of many public libraries that have toys for children to play with. I searched in the archives of PUBYAC, which is a listserve full of information, opinions and suggestions for librarians. A recent question about toys in libraries prompted 15 pages of replies, most of them enthusiastic.

The range of offerings included puzzles, puppets (and sometimes puppet theater), crayons and paper, dolls and dollhouses. Two of the most common comments about having these items were that they draw in families, and they give younger children something to do while parents either browse or spend time with an older child.

This was definitely one of my motivations. Watching a toddler head straight for one of our computers, ready to happily bang away while a mom or dad is reading to an older child, made me wish I had something else to offer. For a while, I had an old keyboard to distract aspiring computer users, but there is no one smarter than a toddler — at least in Albany. They knew the difference immediately.

While this continues to be an issue — although much less frequently — the toys have helped a lot. And perhaps it is the invisible teacher in me that makes me smile when I look around and see all the activity in our children's area: books everywhere, toys everywhere else, and children and parents engaged and happy.

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at [jwinkelstein@acclib.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@acclib.org) or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720, Ext. 17.

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

### Albany

**Albany Senior Center** — Weekdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 846 Masonic Ave. Walking group Mondays, 9 a.m. P. P. maché, bridge, chess, needlecrafts, world events, literature. A movie will be shown 1 p.m. Thursday. 510-524-9122.

### El Cerrito

**El Cerrito Committee on Aging** — Wednesday, 3 p.m. at El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moers Lane.

**Christ Lutheran Senior Center** — Mondays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 780 Ashbury Ave. Current events, computers, needlecrafts and exercise. 510-524-1050.

**St. John's Senior Center** — Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 6500 Gladys Ave. Tai chi, sit-down exercises, conversational Spanish, and card and table

games. Tuesday, there will be senior peer counseling. 510-237-3808.

**The Open House** — Mondays-Thursdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 6500 Stockton Ave. Cultural, arts, writing and language programs; computer classes; senior excursions; hiking; kayaking; art classes. 510-215-4340.

**Community Center** — 7007 Moers Lane. There will be a tea dance Wednesday, 1-4 p.m. Refreshments included with \$3 admission. 510-215-4340.

### Kensington

**Kensington Senior Activity Center** — Thursdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Instruction in conversational German, watercolor painting and meditation group. 510-526-9146.

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

### Albany Library

1247 Marin Ave.  
510-526-3720 or [www.acclib.org](http://www.acclib.org)

**Hours:** Mondays, noon to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, closed; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Learn how to make your own flip book from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. Flip books are a kind of animation you create yourself with pencils, pens or crayons. Each page of these tiny books shows the next small step in your picture story. When the book is finished, you can flip it and watch the action. Roberta Gould, local teacher, parent and author, will teach this workshop. It is free and for all ages. No registration is required and all materials are provided.

■ The library's teen movie program continues with a series of films by legendary anime director Hayao Miyazaki on the first Wednesday of the month. The following films are planned: May 3: My Neighbor Totoro; June 7: Kiki's Delivery Service; July 5: Spirited Away. This program is aimed at middle- and high-school students. All films are shown in the Edith Stone Room. They start at 5 p.m. and finish by 7:15 p.m. at the latest. For information, visit the teen area at the Albany Library or contact Teen Services Librarian Julia Witwer at Ext. 20.

■ Free drop-in homework help is available for students in third through fifth grades. The homework center is open Mondays and Thursdays (except county holidays), from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Emphasis is placed on math and writing skills. No registration is required. For more information, call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17 or e-mail [jwinkelstein@acclib.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@acclib.org).

■ Weekly singalongs are held Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. with Dale Allen Boland. The sessions are free and for all ages. No registration required. Call Julie Winkelstein at Ext.

17.

■ Drop-in knitting groups for all ages are held Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. Work on your own project or make pet blankets and children's hats for victims of recent disasters. Instructions, yarn and needles are provided for library projects. No registration is necessary. For more information, contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

### El Cerrito Library

6510 Stockton Ave.  
510-526-7512 or [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org)

**Hours:** Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, closed; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The library is offering free beginning Internet classes on Saturday mornings. All classes start at 10 a.m. and last one hour. Please sign up in advance. The schedule of classes are as follows: April 22: All about e-mail; April 29: Useful Web sites; May 6: Health and medical information; May 20: Finding newspaper articles; May 27: Travel information; June 3: Finding magazine articles.

■ Children of all ages and their families are invited to the library on Saturday at 11 a.m. as Larry Kluger, also known as "Lariat Larry," presents his program of tall tales and rope tricks. This special National Library Week program is sponsored by the Friends of the El Cerrito Library. After the program, children who stay for another half-hour will get some tips for producing a winning entry for the 2007 West County Reads Calendar Art Contest from artist Robbin Milne. Children who are not able to stay for the Calendar Art program will be able to take home poster material and view a display of winning entries from last year on the library's bulletin board.

■ Children and their families are invited to the library for a series of

Monday evening family story times that will continue through Monday, May 8. Each of the meetings, which include songs and fingerplays as well as stories, will begin at 7 p.m. and last about a half-hour. The themes for the remaining story times will be "Hide & Seek, Lost & Found" on April 17, "Vroom! (Things That Go)" on April 24, "Pink Snouts & Curly Tails (Stories About Pigs)" on May 1 and "I Love You, Mom & Dad!" on May 8. For information, call the library.

■ Join Carole Terwilliger Meyers for a slide presentation on the latest edition of her book, "Weekend Adventures in San Francisco and Northern California," on Thursday at 7 p.m. The presentation will feature vacation wonders from Morro Bay in the south, to the Santa Cruz mountains, and north to the Wine Country and Eureka, including San Francisco and local East Bay places.

■ The spring series of Lapsit story times (formerly known as Babytime and Toddler time) will continue through May 11. These story times, which meet Thursdays at 10:15 and 11 a.m., are for babies and toddlers up to age 3 and their caregivers. Each meeting lasts about 20 minutes, and includes songs, bounces, games and fingerplays in addition to the stories. No registration is required.

■ Readers Anonymous meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month. Future titles: April 25: "The Great Fire" by Shirley Hazzard; June 27: "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson; July 25: "Stones for Ibarra" by Harriet Doerr. The May meeting has been canceled.

■ If you would like to learn about the Internet or basic word processing, the library offers hourlong appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Its Internet docents will help you learn as much as you would like. Call the library to make an appointment.

### Kensington Library

61 Arlington Ave.  
510-524-3043 or [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org)

**Hours:** Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, closed; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The library's book club will discuss the following titles in coming months: April 24: "Tortilla Curtain" by T.C. Boyle; May 22: "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway; June 26: "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry; July 24: "The Sea Wolf" by Jack London; Aug. 28: "How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents" by Julia Alvarez; Sept. 25: "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain; Oct. 23: "The Piano Tuner" by David Mason.

■ Jan Robitscher and her dog Christmas will teach how dogs interact and work with the visually impaired on Saturday, April 22, at 11 a.m. All ages are welcome.

■ The next meeting of the library's knitting club, "Castoffs," will be held Monday, May 1, at 7 p.m. Come for an evening of knitting, show and tell and yarn exchange. All levels are welcome, and some help will be provided. This group meets the first Monday of every month at the library.

■ Meet real wild animals during Bonnie Cromwell's Classroom Safari on Tuesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome.

■ Family story times will hold Tuesday evenings on May 9, 16 and 30 at 7 p.m. All ages welcome (best for preschool and older).

— Craig Lazeretti

E-mail library activity items to [journal@ccfimes.com](mailto:journal@ccfimes.com), or fax to 510-262-2776, or mail to El Cerrito Journal, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

## EL CERRITO/KENSINGTON SCHOOL NOTES

### El Cerrito High School

**GAUCHO CORRAL:** Are you involved in a school-related activity that you'd like to inform the ECHS community about? An article or announcement can be placed in the Gaucho Corral. The next issue will be out in mid-May, and there is a May 1 deadline for copy. Send articles, information or any questions you might have to Sheila Tarbet at [staretb@comcast.net](mailto:staretb@comcast.net).

**PAGETURNERS:** The book club will discuss "Swimming Lessons" by Rohinton Mistry on Wednesday, April 26, at 7 p.m. in Ms. Taylor's room, #33. Everyone is encouraged to come.

### Harding Elementary

**REGISTRATION:** General registration at Harding will take place through May 5. Register before May 5 for limited openings. General registration (first through sixth grade) for the fall takes place April 4-May 5. Harding has a few openings in grade one, grade two and grade three. For more information, call the Harding office at 510-231-1413.

**HASEP CLASSES:** Register for HASEP classes by today. Pick up a copy of the registration form at the Harding office or at the El Cerrito Community Center.

**RUMMAGE SALE:** Will be held Saturday, April 29. This is also Earth Day, so please donate items you are not using to the sale. Items need to be in good working condition. Needed are clothes, toys, small appliances (coffee makers), small tools and antiques. Proceeds support art, music and science programs. Bring your items to the school office.

### Kensington Elementary

**PTA ELECTIONS:** The PTA will hold elections for its executive board on May 4 (the last general meeting of the School Year). To join the Board or to find out more about any of the positions, contact Katherine Meurer, treasurer, at [JKMEURER@aol.com](mailto:JKMEURER@aol.com).

**PEET'S CARDS:** \$20 Peet's Coffee & Tea gift cards will be sold every Wednesday morning from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. in the office breezeway and every Wednesday afternoon at the same location as the pizza sales. Peet's cards can be spent on coffee, tea and products at any Peet's store or online, and KEF gets 10 percent back. Questions? Call Netta Barry at 510-527-7898.

**SPELL-A-THON MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS:** Check with your employer's human resources department to find out whether your employer will match your donation to the school. Some employers will even honor contributions done in the previous school year (last year's Spell-a-thon or the Fall Telethon). You will probably need to provide the date of your contribution, the amount, and the full name of the beneficiary (Kensington Education Foundation). KEF is a nonprofit group. Questions? Call Netta Barry at 510-527-7898.

**RECYCLE CHALLENGE:** Join Ms. Ruff's first grade class in the plastic bag recycle challenge. Bring your unwanted plastic shopping and grocery bags to room 5 or place in the collection box in the foyer of the school. Deadline is April 15.

See EL CERRITO, Page A6

## ALBANY SCHOOL NOTES

### Albany High School

**SENIOR LUNCHEON:** Under the leadership of Piera Cirillo and Craig Thompson, planning has begun for the senior luncheon. We hope that all classes (9th-11th) will come forward and help make this lunch a success. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, food, decorations, clean-up, invitations, etc. Please contact Piera Cirillo at [pcirillo@chdstudies.org](mailto:pcirillo@chdstudies.org) if you are available to help.

**AP ENGLISH ASSESSMENTS:** Sophomores and juniors who have maintained a minimum of a B average in English may sign up for the Honors and AP English assessments in the counseling office from Monday, April 17, through Friday, April 21, and the assessments will take place after school on Monday, April 24.

**GRAPHIC DESIGN:** Students with a talent for graphic design: Logo design is needed for an upcoming program. If you think you may be interested, please contact Emily Pichler or talk to Ms. Burns in the counseling office.

**CONCERT/FUND-RAISER:** The AHS Baseball Boosters present the Berkeley Saxophone Quartet in a concert/fund-raiser on Sunday, April 30 at 4 p.m. at the "Church on the Corner," 1319 Solano Ave. in Albany. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and are available at the door or from JV and varsity baseball team members. The program includes works by the Beatles, Minus, Bach, Parker and others, a special surprise vocalist and special guest John Dorsey on drums. Information is available at 510-526-4894 or [www.berkeleysaxophonequartet.com](http://www.berkeleysaxophonequartet.com).

**JAZZ FESTIVAL:** At the Santa Cruz Jazz Festival, one AHS combos (Sam Kessel, Scot Nichol, Nina Lincoff and Mathew Ungson) received a rating of Excellent while another combo (Ariel Vento, Yvonne Lin, Morgan McLoughlin, Scot Nichol, Nina Lincoff and Jay Healy) received a rating of Superior from both judges (the highest rating a combo can receive). The jazz band earned a rating of Unanimous Superior, the highest rating a group can earn. Receiving this rating allowed the jazz band to be one of the few bands at the festival to play Saturday night at the command performance concert. Kamal Ghamache-Mansour received a \$500 scholarship, and Morgan McLoughlin received a \$1,000 scholarship from Berkeley School of Music in Boston.

**FILM PROJECT:** Calling all filmmakers, thespians and writers. Albany High's first 36-hour film project takes place April 29-30. For more information, visit [www.AHSVideoPro.com](http://www.AHSVideoPro.com) or e-mail [36@ahsvidpro.com](mailto:36@ahsvidpro.com).

**FUTURE FOCUS:** The newest issue of Future Focus is now available — jobs, summer programs, internships and more. Look for Future Focus on bulletin boards around school and on the AHS Web site.

**SPRING SPIRIT:** Spring Spirit starts next week. Monday, April 17, is "Dress like Your Hero Day," Tuesday is "70's and 80's Day," Wednesday is "Elementary School Day," Thursday is "Red and White Day," and Friday is "Tropical Tourism Day."

See ALBANY, Page A6

## CREATE A RETIREMENT PLAN THAT WORKS ... SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO.

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# Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Pam Middings, 1516 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501; e-mail them to pmiddings@cctimes.com or fax them to 510-748-1680. Call 510-748-1683 if you have questions.

## Coming Up

### Music

**Noon Concert Series** — UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall; free. **April 14**, Beethoven chamber music. **April 19**, music by Cindy Cox, poetry by John Campion. **April 26**, Javanese gamelan ensembles. **April 28**, Current Trends in Improvised Music. **May 3**, new works by graduate composers.

**Jazz guitar concert** — **April 15**, 1 p.m., A Cheerful Noyse music store, 1228 Solano Ave., Albany. Mike Glendinning performs. Free. Details: 510-524-0411, info@acheerfulnoyse.com.

**Javanese Music & Dance** — **April 15**, 8 p.m., UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall. Gamelan Sari Raras, directed by Midyanto & Benjamin Brinner. Cost: \$3-10.

**Mini Concert Series** — 8 p.m., Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. **April 21**, Carolyn Magrete plays meditative New Age music. **May 12**, Bobby Ingram combines piano & humor. —



MARK CONSTANTINI

**ELLEN (BUFFY BAGGOTT)**, right, looks into the mirror and sees Nelle (Marnie Breckenridge) in a scene from Berkeley Opera's world premiere of "Chrysalis," a "hallucinatory riff" on cosmetic surgery by composer Clark Supryniewicz and librettist John O'Keefe. "Chrysalis" plays at 8 p.m. April 22 and 28, 7:30 p.m. April 26 and 2 p.m. April 30 at the Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tickets are \$40 general and \$15 youth/disabled. There are also \$10 student and \$20 senior tickets available at the door. Tickets are available by phone at 925-798-1300. For more information, call 510-841-1903 or visit [www.berkeleyopera.org](http://www.berkeleyopera.org).

**June 2**, Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble plays Dufay, Obrecht, Isaac, Taeggio, Gabrieli, more. — **June 30**, Bay Area Classical Harmonies performs Greek & Russian vocal music. Cost: \$15, \$50 for six concerts, \$2

children under 16. Details: 510-526-9146.

**Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra** — **April 22**, 8 p.m.; **April 23**, 7:30 p.m.; First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. "Ode to Joy"

concert features works of Beethoven, Cannabich. Tickets: \$28-\$62; 415-392-4400 or [philharmonia.org](http://philharmonia.org). Details: 415-252-1288.

**Kensington Symphony concert** — **April 22**, 8 p.m., Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Features Young Soloist competition winner Chauncey Aceret, cello; music of Saint-Saens, Mozart, Sibelius. Suggested donation: \$8-\$10. Children free. Details: 510-524-9912.

**Triometric plays NuRoque Music** — **April 23**, 8 p.m., Center for New Music and Audio Technologies, UC Berkeley, 1750 Arch Way. New Media Compositions by Jaron Lanier, Jay Clويد, Keith McMillen. Tickets: \$10. Details: [cnmat.berkeley.edu](http://cnmat.berkeley.edu), triometric.org.

**University Bands** — **April 23**, 3 p.m., UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall. University Wind Ensemble performs works of Ticheli, Cichy, Grainger, Dale McGowan. Cost: \$3-\$10.

**Krystian Zimmerman** — **April 23**, 3 p.m., UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Piano recital. Tickets: \$34-\$58; 510-642-9988.

**Mozart For Mutts and Meows** — **May 6**, 7-10 p.m., Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Gala fund-raiser of music by musicians from Midsummer Mozart Festival, appetizers, silent auction to benefit Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. Tickets: \$75. Reservations by **April 25**: [berkeleyhumane.org](http://berkeleyhumane.org) or 510-845-7739 x19.

**Zakir Hussain's Masters of Percussion** — **April 29**, 8 p.m., UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. \$24-\$46; 510-642-9988.

**Community Music Day** — **April 29**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose St., Berkeley. Free concerts, instrument petting zoo, face painting, prizes, more. Details: [crowden.org](http://crowden.org) or 510-559-2941.

**Ocandle Wind Quintet** — Benefit concert for Healing Muses, **April 30**, 7:30 p.m., Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Jacob. \$10-\$12. Details: 510-644-6893 or [berkeleyartcenter.org](http://berkeleyartcenter.org).

**Berkeley Community Chorus & Orchestra** — **April 30**, **May 6-7**, 4:30 p.m., Saint Joseph The Worker Church, 1640 Addison St., Berkeley. Beethoven Mass, Faure Pavane for Chorus, more. Free. Details: [bcco.org](http://bcco.org).

**Prokofiev Piano Concerto** — **May 5-6**, 8 p.m., UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall. University Symphony Orchestra performs Prokofiev, Strauss, Mozart. Cost: \$3-\$10.

**Healing Muses** — **May 6**, 8 p.m., St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany. "The Flame of Love, The Legend of Tristan and Isolde." Celtic & medieval harp, spoken word, lute, more. Proceeds benefit program of bringing healing music to local hospitals, clinics, convalescent homes. Tickets: \$15-\$18. Details: [healingmuses.org](http://healingmuses.org), 510-524-5661.

**Berkeley Chamber Performances**

— **May 9**, 8 p.m., Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave. Avenue Windroom Ligeti, Hindemith, Nielsen, Romero. \$20. Details: [berkeleychamber.org](http://berkeleychamber.org), 510-525-5211.

**Cal Performances Centennial Celebration** — **May 12**, 7:30 p.m., UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. \$48-\$90. Half price for UC Berkeley students; \$2 discount for UC staff & staff, senior citizens, other students; \$3 discount for UC Alumnae association members. Tickets: \$10, 9988 or [calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://calperfs.berkeley.edu).

**Organ Music at St. John's** — **May 21**, 4 p.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Roberta Gray plays. Reception follows. Donation: \$10. Details: 510-845-6830.

### Community

**Blood Drives** — American Red Cross. **April 14**, 12-6 p.m., East Pauley Ballroom, UC Berkeley, 1000 Telegraph Avenue. — **May 4**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 3rd Floor, East Pauley Ballroom, MLK Student Union, UC Berkeley. — **May 5**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 5th Floor, Tilden Room, Student Union, UC Berkeley. Details: [BeADonor.com](http://BeADonor.com) (code UCB), 800-GIVE-LIFE. — **May 8**, 12:30-6:30 p.m., Wells Fargo Room, Chertoff Center, UC Berkeley. Details: [BeADonor.com](http://BeADonor.com) (code UCB), [Lawson@haas.berkeley.edu](http://Lawson@haas.berkeley.edu).

See CALENDAR, Page 1

## Albany

FROM PAGE A5

**MYSTERY PARTY:** The butler did it? Not in this mystery! In this interactive "Politics Can Be Murder: Hors D'oeuvres and Mystery Party," it could have been the gossip reporter, the quiet police officer or even one of the candidates running for Albany mayor. Figure out this whodunit yourself in a fun evening organized as a leadership project by AHS student Dana Hill as a benefit for a great cause. This charity event will take place in the multipurpose room on Saturday, April 22 from 6-8 p.m. Tickets go for a minimum suggested donation of \$20, and all proceeds will be directly donated to Project Open Hand in San Francisco, an organization that helps feed the families of low-income AIDS patients. Spots are limited, so early reservations are suggested. To RSVP, call 510-527-5310 and send a check, payable to the Future Leaders Institute, to the Institute at 2929 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94703, with a note in the memo area indicating the donation is for Diana Hill's event. Other final FLJ projects are coming in the next few weeks, and the final presentation/community celebration is scheduled for the Little Theater on Saturday, May 20, from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

### Albany Middle School

**AMS MUSICAL:** The annual AMS musical is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 5-6 and 12-13. The play is held at the Albany High School Little Theater at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available at the school office. The cost is \$10. Get your tickets early as the shows always sell out.

**MATH COMPETITION:** Congratulations to the students who participated in the Count on Girls math competition at the Julia Morgan School for Girls on April 1. The AMS eighth grade took third place, and seventh grade took second.

**WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Congratulations to the AMS wrestlers for their league championships in the seventh and eighth grade divisions and second place in the sixth grade division. Individual champions included Andrew Reggi, Jacob Purkey, Alex Holt, Aaron Pen-Kruger, Andy Choi, Brian Bernard and Marcellus Love.

**STUDENT DANCE:** The next student dance is scheduled for Friday, April 21, from 8 to 10 p.m. Students are eligible providing they have no suspensions, are not on tardy alert, and have no overdue library books. Third quar-

ter behavior applies for this dance.

**DANCE CHAPERONES:** Individuals are needed to chaperone the spring dance on Friday, April 21, from 8-10 p.m. in the AMS gym. Please e-mail Margot at [grabano@ml.net](mailto:grabano@ml.net) if you can help.

**THEATER PERFORMANCE:** This year's play, "From the Slums of Piedmont," is a comedy that parodies "8 Mile" and is written and directed by Mr. Gamba. The play is Friday and Saturday nights May 5-6 and May 12-13 at 7:30 p.m. in the AMS Little Theater. Play tickets are on sale at the school office. The cost is \$10.

**PTA LUNCHEON:** PTA will host a luncheon honoring teachers and staff on Thursday, May 11. This year's luncheon will feature Japanese food. Donations are needed of Japanese appetizers (gyoza, tofu, edamame, etc.) and Japanese main dishes such as sushi, teriyaki chicken and rice bowls. For dessert, brownies and cookies would be welcome. No soup or ice cream, please. If you would like to bring food, please specify what you'll bring by May 1 to Amy St. George at 510-528-0848 or a [saint@pacbell.net](mailto:saint@pacbell.net). If you would prefer to donate money instead, please make out a check to AMS PTA and mail it to the AMS office, and/or bring cash to the AMS office and write "AMS PTA Teacher Appreciation" on the envelope.

### Cornell Elementary

**PTA MEETING CANCELED:** The monthly PTA meeting for April, originally scheduled for April 13, the second Thursday of the month, has been canceled because that day falls during spring break. The PTA is still busy planning and preparing for upcoming activities and events, including the arrival of the flowers and bulbs ordered during the spring flower sale, the Greenathon on Saturday, April 22, the Silly Olympics T-Shirt Design contest, and the International Cookbook Art contest. The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 11. If there is a topic or concern that needs to be discussed before next month's meeting, please contact Allan Fone at 510-525-1356 (home) or by e-mail at [rarespp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rarespp@sbcglobal.net).

**GOODSEARCH:** You can earn money for the school by using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to search the Web. On the bottom half of the Web page, look for the words "I'm Supporting" and type in Cornell in the text box just below. Then click the "Verify" button. From the list of schools and charities that appears, click "Cornell Elementary (Albany, CA)." From now on, each time you go to GoodSearch.com, you

search the Web, Cornell will already be selected.

**SPELLATHON:** The spellathon is under way. Cornell will continue to accept donations with gratitude. The fifth-grade band assembly will be on May 24 and the fourth grade assembly on May 31, both at 10 a.m. in the multipurpose room.

**ICE CREAM PRICES:** Partly because of increased costs for healthier options, ice cream prices will rise to 75 cents.

**LOST AND FOUND:** The lost and found box is overflowing. Please make an attempt to check it out for your child's missing clothing.

**RECIPE DRAWINGS:** PTA needs your recipe drawings for the International Cookbook. Please submit a recipe by April 28 to the cookbook folder on the office counter or the cookbook recipe folder on the PTA bulletin board (across from Cornell's main office). Original recipes, family recipes, anonymous recipes and recipes from cookbooks are all welcome (just include the cookbook name). You can also e-mail recipes to [reeses.linda@comcast.net](mailto:reeses.linda@comcast.net). Also, encourage your child to enter the drawing contest associated with the cookbook. Details have come home on a flyer. For more information, contact Linda Reeves at 510-559-9782 or [reeses.linda@comcast.net](mailto:reeses.linda@comcast.net).

**SILLY OLYMPICS:** The Silly Olympics will be held Saturday, June 3. To not conflict with the STAR testing process, the T-shirt design contest will be early this year. It will officially start next week. The event will include some "X"-treme events in honor of the Silly O's 10th anniversary.

**SPRING FLOWER SALE:** The PTA would like to thank all the students and families who helped make the spring flower sale a success. The students sold a total of 732 items, raising \$1,900 for the school. The biggest selling kindergarten or first grade class was Room 11, which sold 75 items. For second and third grade, the biggest selling class was Room 1, which sold 99 items. For fourth and fifth grade, the biggest selling class was Room 18, which sold 65 items. The flowers and plants will arrive next week. A few volunteers are needed to help sort out and pack the orders. If you can help, please contact Karen at 415-865-7212 (work) or 510-525-1356 (home) or by e-mail at [danielmon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danielmon@sbcglobal.net).

### Marin Elementary

**OPEN HOUSE:** On Thursday, May 25, Ocean View, Cornell and Marin schools will hold their annual open house from 7-8 p.m. The Science Investigations Fair will be held in the multi-purpose room that evening from

6:30-8 p.m. Ms. Wong and Ms. Co-vay, science specialists, are working with fourth and fifth graders to prepare for this event. Students in other grades are welcome to participate in this project. Packets with directions will soon be available from the teacher and in the office.

**MARIN DE MAYO:** All Marin families and friends are invited to the second annual Marin de Mayo Dinner catered by Picante on the Marin campus on Saturday, May 13, from 4-7 p.m. Visit with Marin families and friends while enjoying great food, entertainment, crafts, raffles, and much more. Tickets go on sale April 17, and will be available at the April 19 Community Sign. PTA MEETING: The PTA will meet on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. The agenda includes the presentation of the draft budget for 2006-07, the Albany library tax proposal, and Marin de Mayo, among other items.

**GARDEN WORK:** Spring bulbs are popping up in the butterfly garden, new flowers are appearing in the courtyard, ancient yard debris is gone, the raised beds outside the classrooms have been weeded, and the Three Sisters garden has been cleaned and awaits planting. It's all the work of the Marin "garden fairies," who gave up their Saturday morning on March 26, even with rain threatening. The group will soon spruce up Marin with improved green areas, new trees, two outdoor classrooms, an edible garden, a poetry garden, and more. The garden fairies will have a booth at Marin de Mayo, including a schematic plan and photos of the edible schoolyard at King Middle School in Berkeley. Help is needed to complete the project, including a landscape architect/designer, carpenters, anyone with knowledge of straw bale construction, and other jobs to be identified. If you can help, please contact Cynthia at 510-525-8049 or Sheila at 510-524-1032.

### Ocean View Elementary

**E-TREE:** To sign-up for the etree, send an e-mail to [OceanView-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:OceanView-subscribe@yahoo.com). The Ocean View newsletter and other notices about Ocean View and Albany schools will be posted.

**SUMMER SCHOOL:** Summer school dates are June 21-July 20. Summer school is for students completing

grades 1-5. The state is continuing to fund elementary summer school only for students who are at risk of not meeting end-of-year grade level standards in reading and math. Later this spring, applications will be sent only to families of those students identified by district assessment.

**OPEN HOUSE PROJECTS:** In connection with open house, fourth- and fifth-graders will be developing and presenting science projects in the multipurpose room on May 25. Participation is optional for K-3 students, and more information will be coming next week.

**PTA LEADERSHIP BOARD:** Have you considered becoming a member of PTA's leadership board? All current board members will be moving on next year. Please consider attending April PTA meeting for more information.

## El Cerrito

FROM PAGE A5

**BOOK FAIR:** The Spring Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the library April 25-28. To volunteer, please contact Nora Hirose at 510-215-1942 or [nhirose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nhirose@sbcglobal.net) or Debbie Hayakawa at 510-528-8803 or [debbiehayakawa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debbiehayakawa@sbcglobal.net).

**SPRING CARNIVAL:** The Kensington Hilltop School's PTA and Dads' Club will host the school's 59th annual spring carnival on Saturday, May 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. As in recent years, the 2006 carnival will include a wide range of games for kids of all ages, a great selection of prizes, lunch offerings from the Dads' Club grill, treats from the bake sale, and a visit from the Kensington police and fire departments. And, as has been

the case for the previous 22 years, child designed and crafted by Kensington parents will be raffled off after school. For more information, contact Alison Roberts (Kensington) by e-mail at [alisonroberts@aol.com](mailto:alisonroberts@aol.com) or Walt Gill (Dads' Club) at [wwgill335@comcast.net](mailto:wwgill335@comcast.net).

**RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS:** Don't gift certificate from your business restaurant for the annual spring raffle fund-raiser. Contact Linda Loizito at [lloizito@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lloizito@sbcglobal.net) or Kurzer at [msougl@covad.net](mailto:msougl@covad.net).

School notes may be e-mailed to [journal@cctimes.com](mailto:journal@cctimes.com), faxed to 510-262-2776, or mailed to El Cerrito Journal, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

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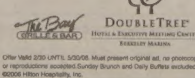
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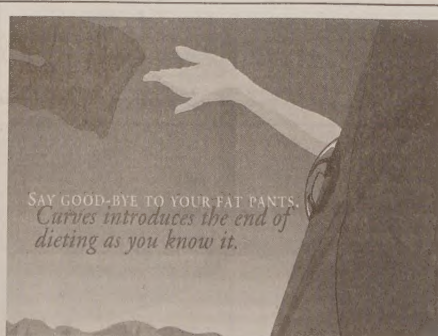
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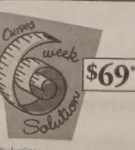
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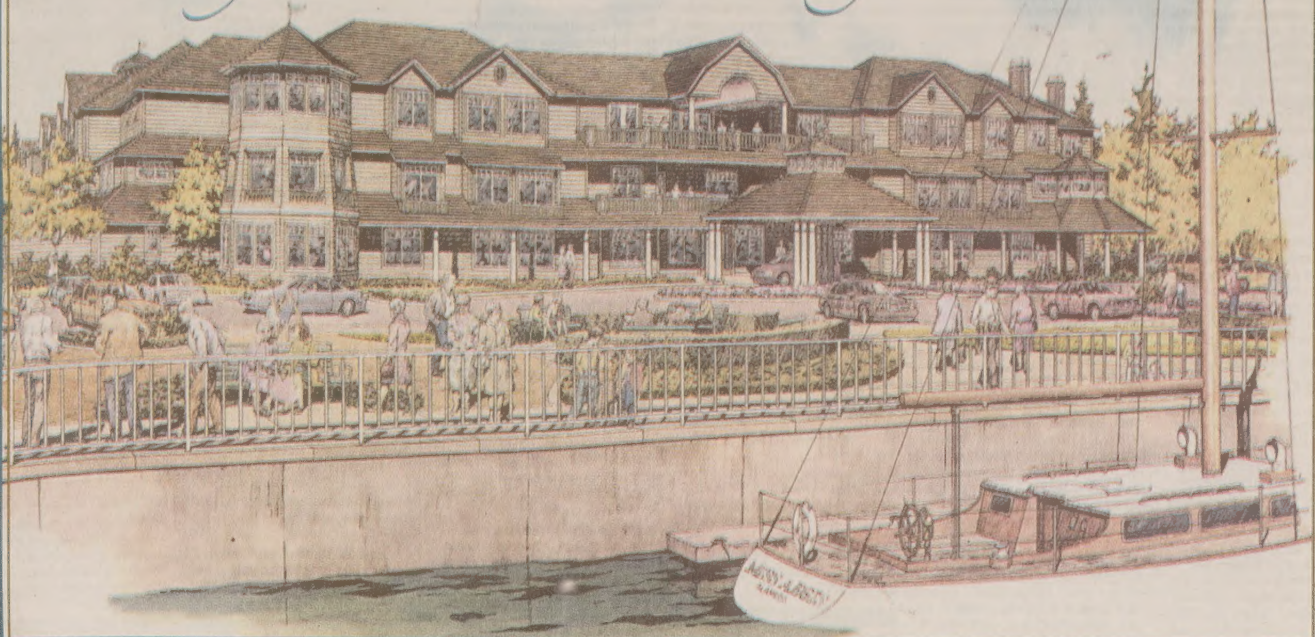
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## Calendar

FROM PAGE A6

■ **Berkeley Chamber of Commerce** — April 18, 10 a.m., Spencers Fresh Fish Grotto, 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley. Business to Business Lunch; topic is Customer Service. Cost: \$25-\$50. Register by April 14. Details: 510-549-7003.

■ **Hopalong Animal Rescue** — Pet adoption events. April 15, 22, 12-3 p.m., Your Basic Bird, 2940 College Ave., Berkeley; cats available. — April 22, 12-3 p.m., PetSmart, 1001 Eastshore Expressway, Albany; dogs available. Details: hopalong.org or 510-267-1915.

■ **Rabbit adoptions** — April 15, 1-4 p.m., RabbitEARS Rescue Store, 303 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Rescued bunnies available. Free. Details: 510-525-6155 or fixpets@yahoo.com.

■ **Free Tax Return help** — AARP Tax-Aide tax counseling & preparation service can help with most of tax issues faced by middle- and low-income taxpayers, especially those age 60 and older. Details: 888-227-7669 through April 15, or visit aarp.org/taxaide.

■ **Community Labyrinth Peace Walk** — April 16, 3 p.m., Willard Middle School, 2425 Stuart St., Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. Rain cancels. Details: info@eastbaylabyrinthproject.org or 510-526-7377.

■ **St. John's Prime Timers Senior Center** — St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. April 18, 11 a.m., Genealogical research discussion with Rick Sherman. — April 23, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley; Prime Timers Tap Dancers perform in annual show "Gil Chun's Bay Area Folies." Tickets: \$10-\$15. — April 25, 11 a.m., Shirley Pan shows slides of her trips to China & White Mountains. Details: 510-845-6830.

■ **Edith Collier Festival of Cultures** — April 22, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. International food, dancing, more. This year's focus is on Switzerland: yodeling, food, more. Admission: \$5-\$7. Details: ihouse.Berkeley.edu, 510-642-9461.

■ **Berkeley Earth Day Fair** — April 22, 12-5 p.m., Civic Center Park, Martin Luther King Jr. & Allston Ways, Berkeley. 12-1:15 p.m., National Dance Week performers. 1:30-3 p.m., Alice DiMichele Band. 3:30-5 p.m., Reggae Angels. Berkeley Farmer's Market Family Farm Day, vegetarian food, craft & community booths, climbing wall. Valet bicycle parking. Volunteers needed. Call 510-654-6346 x2. Details: Hesternet.net.

■ **Berkeley Historical Society** — Spring 2006 Walking Tours, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., April 22: Earthquake Relief Efforts on the U.C. Campus in 1906. May 6: Past and Promise Along Santa Fe Right of Way. May 20: Sistema Tract in West Berkeley: A Small Chilean Ranch Transformed. June 3: Lino: Kindred Spirit or Conquest? June 10, 11 a.m., New Berkeley City College Building. Cost: \$8-\$10 each, \$30 for all tours. Reservations: make check payable to Berkeley Historical Society, mail to P.O. Box 1190, Berkeley, CA 94701. Details: cityofberkeley.info/histoc/ or 510-848-0181.

■ **Watchword Cartoon Brunch** — April 23, 11-4 p.m., Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. Old & new cartoon screening, breakfast, live music, handmade craft & clothing sale. Show up in pajamas & get a free cup of coffee. \$5. Proceeds benefit Watchword Press. Details: 510-845-0304 or watchwordpress.org.

■ **Draft workshop** — April 23, 1:15-4:30 p.m., Berkeley Friends Church, 1600 Sacramento St., Berkeley. Three-hour workshop "Draft Registration and Conscientious Objection - What every teenager needs to know." Free. Details: Faith 925-274-0900 (leave message) or brewers@frn.net.

■ **Berkeley City Club tours** — April 23, 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Free docent-led tour of "little castle" designed by Julia Morgan. Donations welcome. Details/reservations: 510-848-7800 or 510-883-9710.

■ **Holocaust Remembrance Day** — April 24, 12 p.m., City Council Cham-

bers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. Features live music, poetry readings, speakers include survivors & their progeny, survivors light candles. Details: 510-981-7170.

■ **WCCUSD Golf Classic** — April 24, 1 p.m., Franklin Canyon golf course, Highway 4, Hercules. West Contra Costa County Unified School District's El Cerrito & Pinole Valley High schools present fund-raising tournament. Includes lunch, raffle, silent auction. Players & sponsors needed. Details: Roddy at ree@wccusd.k12.ca.us or 510-525-6775.

■ **"How'd You Become Activists & What Now?"** — April 28, 7 p.m., Berkeley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. Features human rights activists Paul Larudee & Barbara Bechnel. \$10 donation. Details: 510-528-5403.

■ **Free Mercury Thermometer Exchange** — April 29, 12-5 p.m., Berkeley Green Home Expo, Civic Center Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Way & Center Street. Bring mercury thermometers in original cases or in two zipper bags. One free digital thermometer per household. Bring unwanted or expired medicine in original containers with your name marked out. Details: ebmud.com/cleanbay or 510-287-1651.

■ **Berkeley Heritage Spring House Tour** — And Garden Reception, May 7, 1-5 p.m., Claremont Park, Berkeley. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association's tour explores residential work of Walter H. Ratcliff Jr. Tour map, illustrated guidebook, refreshments provided. Cost: \$25-\$35. — May 4, pre-tour lecture by author Woodruff Minor. \$10. Details: berkeleyheritage.com, baha@berkeleyheritage.com, 510-841-2242.

■ **A Taste of El Cerrito** — May 7, 5-9 p.m., El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, El Cerrito. Local restaurants showcase food specialties. Silent auction fund-raiser benefits El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce Business Scholarship Fund. Details: TasteofElCerrito.com.

■ **59th annual Hilltop Spring Carnival** — May 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Kensington Hilltop School, 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington. Games, prizes, lunch, baked goods, visit from Kensington Police & Fire Departments, quilt raffle. Proceeds benefit PTA & Dads' Club. Details: alisonroberts@aol.com or www.gill335@comcast.net.

■ **La Place du Marche** — May 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 1009 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. School becomes an authentic French marketplace: French products for sale; French food & drinks; arts, crafts & games for children; French music; raffle for trip to Paris & more. Proceeds benefit Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley. Details: eb.org.

## Outdoors

■ **Recreational Equipment Inc.** — Free events at 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. April 18, 7 p.m., Hiking the John Muir Trail. — April 23, 30, 10-11 a.m., Hands-on Bicycle Clinic. — April 30, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., San Pablo Reservoir, Berkeley. Paddle Demo Days. Try out canoes & kayaks on water. Paddling experts share tips. Free. Details: 510-527-4140 or rei.com/stores.

■ **Bay-Friendly Garden Tour** — April 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Alameda County. Self-guided tour features 34 private & public gardens. Native & Mediterranean plants, vegetable starts available for purchase. Registrants receive tour guidebook with directions, descriptions. Free. Registration: by April 20 at BayFriendly.org or 510-444-7645.

■ **Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour** — May 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., locations in Alameda & Contra Costa counties. Free. Receive passes, printed guide to 65 gardens containing 30+ percent native plants. Native plants available for sale, garden talks offered. Register by April 20 at BringingBackTheNatives.net. Volunteers needed, will receive private garden tours. Details: at Website, Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net, or

9 a.m.-9 p.m. call 510-236-9558.

■ **University of California Botanical Garden** — April 23, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Create a Perennial Border Using California Natives. \$20-\$25. — April 28, 5-7:30 p.m., Members Only Plant Sale & Silent Auction; memberships available at gate. April 29, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., public sale. Free admission. — May 6, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Sick plant clinic. Free. First Saturdays monthly. — May 7, 2-3:30 p.m., A Child's Container Garden: Family Workshop. Fee: \$7-\$18, registration required. Price includes one parent & one child, one container plant garden per child. 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. Details: 510-643-2755 or botanical-garden.berkeley.edu.

## Meetings

■ **California Writers Club** — Berkeley Branch meeting, April 15, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Event Loft, Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland. Pam Rosenthal speaks on "Border Country: Erotica or Erotic Romance?" pleasures & provocations in the capricious market for erotic writing. Free. Details: 510-420-8775.

■ **League of Women Voters** — West Contra Costa County chapter luncheon meeting, April 21, 11:30 a.m., Denny's Restaurant, 11344 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Guest Speaker Assemblymember Loni Hancock speaks on Clean Money and Fair Elections. \$15. Reservations by April 17: Kay 510-232-3767.

■ **Fibromyalgia Support and Education Group** — April 18, 12-2 p.m., Hemick Campus, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Maffly Auditorium, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Rap Session with topic "Pain: Get Support and Share What Works." Free. Details: 510-644-3273.

## Exhibits

■ **Berkeley Civic Center Art Competition & Exhibition** — Application due by April 18. Open call for artists living or working in Berkeley for juried exhibition in Martin Luther King Civic Center, 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley. Artists submit five professional quality color slides of their artwork. Honorarium of \$160 per selected artist awarded to exhibit their artwork for one year. Details/applications: ci.berkeley.ca.us/civcarts/publicart.htm. Details: Robbin 510-644-6893; Mary Ann 510-981-7533/marker@ci.berkeley.ca.us; or Sanaz 510-981-7541/stofghrad@ci.berkeley.ca.us.

■ **"Eclectic" Gallery Opening** — April 15, 6 p.m., 7523 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito. Through July 4, Group Show of Mixed Media Works. Artists Include: Chris Fortin, Patricia Mitchell, Karla Bruck, William Dutton, Susan Billings, Chuck Mitchell. Free. Details: 510-364-7216.

■ **"Berkeley Treasures Series 1"** — Karl Kasten, Ariel, Lewis Suzuki. — through May 20, Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. April 26, 7 p.m., slide lecture & talk with Karl Kasten. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 12-5 p.m. Free, donations appreciated.

■ **El Cerrito Art Association** — April 28-30, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, El Cerrito. Details: 510-526-9564.

■ **"Figuresque"** — Through April 29, Berkeley Travel Company, 1301 California St., Berkeley. Barbara Maricle shows her recent figure paintings in acrylic & oil.

■ **"Full Circle: Mandalas"** — Through May 12, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave. April 30, 4-6 p.m., artists' reception. Paintings in the round by Margaret Lindley & Susan St. Thomas, pine needle & clay vessels by Melissa Woodburn. Details: 510-204-1667.

■ **ASUC Art Studio** — "Travelogue - Mark Shaw: Photographs and Musings About Life in Cambodia, Cuba and Along the Mekong River," through April 30, ASUC Art Studio Gallery, MLK, Jr. Student Union Building, UC Berkeley campus. Details: 510-642-3065 or asucartstudio.org.

■ **Ames Gallery** — Through April 30, Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley. "Focusing on Photography: Vintage Photographs from Our Collection," "Dwight Mackintosh." Details: 510-845-4949 or ames-gallery.com.

■ **La Pena Cultural Center** — 3105 Shattuck Ave. Through April 30, lobby, work of Egyptian sculptor Ahmed Said. In cafe, "Los Ojos del Paraíso," works by Cecilia Elvira Garcia. In theater, "International Women's Month: A celebration of Women," paintings/photos by Thea Bellos, Ellen Greene, Gabriela Nunez, Marie-Jose Durquet. Details: lapena.org or 510-849-2569.

■ **"Big Dinos Return" exhibit** — Through May 7, Lawrence Hall of Science, one Centennial Drive, Berkeley. Features robotic dinosaurs. Details: 510-642-5132 or lawrencehall-science.org.

■ **Judah L. Magnes Museum** — Through May 14, "Houses and Houses: Portability in Jewish Faith and Culture." 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. Details: magnes.org or 510-549-6950.

■ **"Wild Things" exhibit** — Through May 14, Tuesdays-Sundays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tilden Nature Center, end of Central Park Drive, Tilden Park, Berkeley. See Rita Sklar's watercolor paintings of African animals & American, European, African birds. Details: ritasklar.com.

■ **"The Sculpture of Stephen De Staebler"** — Through May 15, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley. Details: 510-649-2541 or cwoelle@gtu.edu.

■ **UC Berkeley Art Museum** — Through May 21, "Dreaming California: Ruth-Marion Baruch, Bill Owens and Larry Sultan." — Through May 28, "Now-Time Venezuela, Part 1: Worker-Controlled Factories." — Through Dec. 3, "Bancroft Library Centennial Exhibition: A Celebration 1906-2006." — Through June 24, 2007, "A Measure of Time: American Art 1900 to the Present." 2625 Durant Ave., #2250, Berkeley. Details: bampla.berkeley.edu or 510-642-0808.

■ **CSI: Crime Scene Insects** — Through May 29, Lawrence Hall of Science, one Centennial Drive, Berkeley. Exhibit explores forensic entomology through field & lab equipment, model crime scenes, live insects, interactive displays. 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., tours by M. Lee Goff, Ph.D. Details: 510-642-5132 or lawrencehall-science.org.

■ **Badé Museum** — Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holbrook Building, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Through March 30, "Buddhist Images" by Jan Eldridge. April 4-June 29, "Behold: Nude Photographic Work by Dana Davis." Details: Dawn 510-849-8239. — April 10, 7 p.m., "The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946" book signing & slideshow. Free. — Through January 2007, "Making Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: Family Religion in Ancient Israel." Details: 510-849-8201.

■ **Schurman-Scriptum Gallery** — Through May 31, 1659 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. "Kawase Hasui & His Era: Masters of the Japanese Woodblock Print." Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 12-6 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m. Free. Details: Elise 510-526-1236 or elisescrptum@yahoo.com.

■ **"My Sister, My Sister," Photography Exhibition** — Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center lobby, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. Photographic portraits by Meredith Stout and poetry by Zelma Brown highlight the faces, stories of women and children living in poverty. Free. Details: brjcc.org.

## Children/teens

■ **Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley** — One Centennial Drive, Berkeley. April 14, 17-19, 12:11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Auditorium, Quakes and Shakes; learn about earthquake engineering. — April 14 & 20, 12-2 p.m., Creepy Crawlies; insect-inspired activities for visitors 3-7. — April 18, 12-2 p.m., Anniversary of 1906 Quake. "Be prepared." — April 21, 12-2 p.m., Ken Bergmann's "Percussion Discussion;" make your own percussion instruments. Details: lawrencehall-science.org.

ties for visitors 3-7. — April 18, 12-2 p.m., Anniversary of 1906 Quake. "Be prepared." — April 21, 12-2 p.m., Ken Bergmann's "Percussion Discussion;" make your own percussion instruments. Details: lawrencehall-science.org.

■ **Los Amigos de la Pena** — Children's programs at 10:30 a.m., La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. April 15, Estela Knott & David Berzonsky. April 22, Colibri. Tickets: \$3-\$4. Details: lapena.org.

■ **Habitat Children's Museum** — Events at 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. April 19, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 8th Birthday Celebration. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Love the Clown, crafts, cake at 12:30 p.m. Bring a new or used toy for Toy Lending Library & receive a free admission guest pass. Free admission day. — April 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Earth Day celebration. Make hand-made recycled paper, nature collages, art sculptures. Free admission day. Details: 510-647-1111 or habi-

tails: 510-647-1111 or habi-

Support

■ **Albany Lyme** — Monthly on May 2, 6:30-7:45 p.m., Albany 1247 Marin Ave., Edith Storing Albany. Supportive group meets to share information about Lyme disease medical resources & for Congressional bills. Details: albanylyme.org or AlbanyHouse.org.

■ **Widows/Widowers Grief** — Class & Support Group, through May 16, 7-9 p.m., Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, Dana St., Berkeley. Have you one you know experienced loss of a spouse within last couple Find hope, support & success to process this significant loss. Workbook: \$5. Pre-enrollment: 848-6252 x241.

See CALENDAR, P.

## Business

FROM PAGE A1

The two are working on the May 7 Taste of El Cerrito event and on promotional materials that may include a business map and brochure and business awards.

"I think their purpose and my purpose truly is to make businesses succeed in El Cerrito," Giles said. "How to do that is to bring consumers to their door and make it exciting and fun to shop here."

In addition, the redevelopment agency is planning to make aesthetic improvements and complete a city marketing plan in an effort to draw new businesses.

The agency is also looking at spending \$4.7 million over the next five years to help beautify San Pablo Avenue, its main commercial corridor. That will include new banners, landscaping and medians, as well as a crosswalk with flashing lights at Madison Avenue.

"Improving the streetscape on its own will encourage private investment," El Cerrito Redevelopment Manager Lori Trevino said. "People don't want to invest in a piece of private property and not have the public property in front of it look attractive. It doesn't do them any good."

The city's renewed focus on the business climate is a result of the redevelopment agency's good economic fortune. Increased property values in the redevelopment area have driven up property tax revenue, allowing the agency to issue bonds for millions of dollars more.

That will enable the agency to do over the next five years what city officials say many residents have requested: improving the senior center and library and San Pablo Avenue.

Trevino said the agency is also planning to spend about \$250,000 annually over the next five years on business workshops, graffiti elimination and business-assistance programs, such as loans for small business owners wanting to seismically retrofit their buildings or improve their aesthetics.

In the meantime, the city is working on an economic development plan to identify where new businesses can locate and how then to attract and promote them.

An analysis of the city's busi-

ness climate and opportunities for improvement will be sent at an April 18 meeting to the city's economic development board and other.

The analysis, conducted by consultant Chabin Conner based in part on a survey of shoppers and businesses that drew 1,300 responses, said.

It's the first step of a step plan for marketing to outside businesses and marketing businesses already located within the city. The step is finding out where the city should be located. The city would develop a marketing plan.

Dalman, who spent time working on economic development in Concord, is now El Cerrito implement its plan, said helping businesses creating commerce benefits the city.

"The more successful businesses are, the better the city is," Dalman, 42, said. "The more successful businesses create more employment opportunities for people, more tax that can go into city coffers."

"People should understand that when you shop local, you spend money on local business that benefits the community you live in. That's part of marketing efforts, marketing the things available in El Cerrito that people don't know about."

So far, the only downside to this renewed interest in business climate appears to be concern about parking, particularly at San Pablo and Fairmount avenues, where Mechanics located.

During her meeting with son, Giles and Dalman, president McCarthy said tend to park in the bank then hop over to the post next door.

Abelson suggested the city could enforce the parking restrictions, but the issue settled.

"It's the nature of the area and an issue for ourselves," McCarthy said. "To me at least seems to be an effort to (address) the issue."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail alopez1@cctimes.com.

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endar

PAGE A8

Religion

North United Methodist Church  
an event series, 1953 Hopkins  
Way. April 16, 6:23 a.m., sun-  
day with refreshments to fol-  
low. 10-11 a.m., worship ser-

vice, easter egg hunt follows for chil-  
dren through 5th grade; bring a bas-  
ket. Details: 510-524-2921 or epworth-  
berkeley.org.

■ **Hillside Community Church** —  
April 16, 10:30 a.m., 1422 Navellier  
St., El Cerrito. Easter Sunday worship  
service, with Community Feast, Easter  
Egg Hunt following. Details: 510-235-  
3646 or caretaker@ecswedenbor-  
gian.org.

■ **Spiritual Talks** — Alternating Tues-  
days starting April 18, 6:30 p.m., To-  
mate Cafe, 2265 Fifth St., Berkeley.  
Yoga philosophy, decoding religious  
language, practical health, social com-  
mentary with David Korman. Free. De-  
tails: 510-549-9885.

■ **Living the Questions** — Discussion  
Series, April 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., First  
Congregational Church of Berkeley,  
Small Assembly Room, 2345 Chan-

ning Way. Rita Nakashima Brock talks  
on "Social Justice and the Prophets."  
Free. Details: 510-848-3696 or  
fccb.org.

■ **Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Com-  
munity Center** — Events at 1414 Wal-  
nut St. April 20-27, Thursdays 7 p.m.,  
Single and Seeking (Again.) \$60/5-  
week session. — April 20-May 26,  
7:30-9 p.m. Thursdays, "Finding Your  
Creative Voice: A Women's Writing

Workshop with Yosefa Raz." \$90/6-  
week series. — April 20, 5:30-8:30  
p.m., Opening Reception for "Under a  
Rock..." with artist Jean Fawver. Free.  
— April 20-May 25, Thursdays 10:30-  
11:45 a.m., My Toddler and Me Dis-  
covery Group. \$12/session. — April  
23; 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 50+ Singles  
Books, Discussions, and Fellowship  
Group. Free. — April 23, May 21;  
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 50+ Singles'  
Books, Discussions & Fellowship

Group. Free. — April 27, 7:30 p.m.,  
"Dancing with Wonder: Self-Discovery  
Through Stories workshop. \$5. Details:  
brjcc.org or 510-848-0237 x132.

■ **Contemplative Prayer Disciplines**  
— Morning retreat, April 22, 9 a.m.-1  
p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 2407  
Dana St., Berkeley. Learn prayer prac-  
tices such as lectio divina & Prayer of  
Examen. Cost: \$25. Details: 510-841-  
9386 or newcollegeberkeley.org.

# SCHOOLS And PROGRAMS

## Summer

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confidence. Outdoor  
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imming lessons, trail  
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ing, boating, sports,  
environment edu-  
on, outdoor adventure,

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demic program in a warm  
family atmosphere for stu-  
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and eager to learn.

While the curriculum is  
traditional and academic, it is  
also rich in opportunities for  
creative experience and  
expression. It is the school's  
philosophy that only upon  
knowledge can creative  
potential best be realized and  
self-expression more fully  
developed.

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and ease in these subject  
areas. Afternoon recreation  
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program for children starting  
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and background.

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Please phone the school for  
more information and to  
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demic classes focus on  
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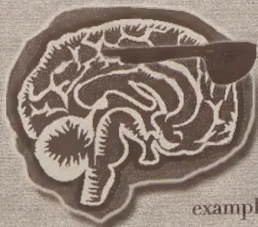
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example A.

Your Child's Brain



example B.

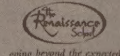
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## Bus

FROM PAGE A1

However, Calvin Fong, an aide to Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, said the new plan will require a fare increase for riders using the new Line 10.

Line 10 will replace a section of Line 15. It will provide service between the MacArthur BART station, downtown Berkeley and the El Cerrito Plaza BART station, via Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, according to a memo written by Bruzzone and transportation planning manager Jon Twichell.

Riders using the service to downtown Oakland or Montclair will need to transfer at the MacArthur station to the new Line 8, which replaces the remainder of Line 15.

"People are saying 'You're forcing me to transfer,'" Fong said. "And since transfers are not free, you're increasing my fair."

The transfer will affect about 250 people versus the 2,000 people who would have been affected by the reduction to the 43 line, according to the memo.

Line 8 will originate in Montclair, follow the current 15 to MacArthur BART, then shift to the existing routing of the 43

along Telegraph, Shattuck and Solano avenues, according to the memo. The line would terminate at UC Village.

The changes are part of an \$18 million effort by AC Transit to implement a rapid bus plan in late summer. Recent bridge toll hikes approved by voters will fund the \$3 million annually needed to run it.

Under the plan, buses would run every 12 minutes from the BayFair BART station in San Leandro, up through downtown Oakland and Berkeley via International Boulevard and Telegraph Avenue and onto the northwest side of UC Berkeley.

Fewer stops and bus driver control over traffic signals would reduce the trip time.

The AC Transit board will consider approving the plan Wednesday at its general offices, 1600 Franklin St. in Oakland.

AC Transit is also working on a 2009 Bus Rapid Transit service that would create dedicated bus lanes and new bus stations intended to mimic San Francisco's trolley service. That service is controversial among Telegraph Avenue business owners because it may require closing the street off to cars.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail alopez1@cctimes.com.

## Exam

FROM PAGE A1

Representatives from the state Department of Education have called the plan illegal and said the district could lose funding or face a state lawsuit. In the past week, State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell and County Superintendent Joseph Ovick sent admonishing letters to the district and board.

On Monday, district lawyer Lou Lozano told the school board that giving the diplomas could also result in a state takeover or student-led lawsuits if the state declared all West Contra Costa diplomas invalid.

"I do not believe it is up to us to take this risky stand," said school board member Karen Leong Fenton.

Brown said that he believes the district would be upholding the state Constitution and protecting students from being unfairly kept from higher-paying jobs that come with a high school diploma. He brought a legal opinion from attorney Steven Phillips of San Francisco in support of his arguments.

"We're not breaking the law," Brown said. "We're upholding



GREGORY UROJAGATIMES

**STUDENTS** listen as Dave Brown's measure is voted down by the other members of the West Contra Costa Unified School District board Monday in Richmond. The board voted against giving diplomas to students who had not passed the high school exit exam.

the law."

The Legislature approved the exit exam in 1999 to give meaning to the high school diploma, at the time given out based on requirements set by individual districts. The untimed exam measures 10th grade English and middle school math.

As of November, 89 percent of high school seniors had passed statewide. However, 48,000 students statewide failed to pass both parts of the exam and could be denied diplomas

on that basis.

In West Contra Costa, about 500 of 1,984 seniors have failed the test. Of those, 160 earned enough credits to graduate, according to district data.

More than 60 come from Richmond High School, from where students marched to the school board meeting holding signs that read, "Don't Trash Our Futures!" and "Don't Hold Our Diplomas Hostage."

After the vote, many students, including Richmond High

senior Iris Padilla, said and cried.

Earlier in the day, a 16-year-old had led a group to the Lovonya DeLoach School auditorium to show a phone in hand, challenging the board's decision.

Now she dabbled in social media. "I feel extremely disappointed," Padilla said. "Today I missed and didn't see the work I put in."

After striking down the proposal, the board told students who failed the test to walk the June and receive diplomas showing they earned credits for graduation.

Afterward, Brown was disappointed.

"I think it really sounds thing to do, and legally," he said, "not over."

Board member suggested joining a ready under way in multiple Richmond High students are suing, claiming the test is unfair.

The board is expected to take up the issue next week.

Shirley Dang covers education. Reach her at 510-2798 or sdang@cctimes.com.

# SCHOOLS And PROGRAMS



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The Renaissance School seeks to inspire a passion for excellence and nurture curiosity creativity, and imagination. The Kodály Music Program and a Studio Art program, along

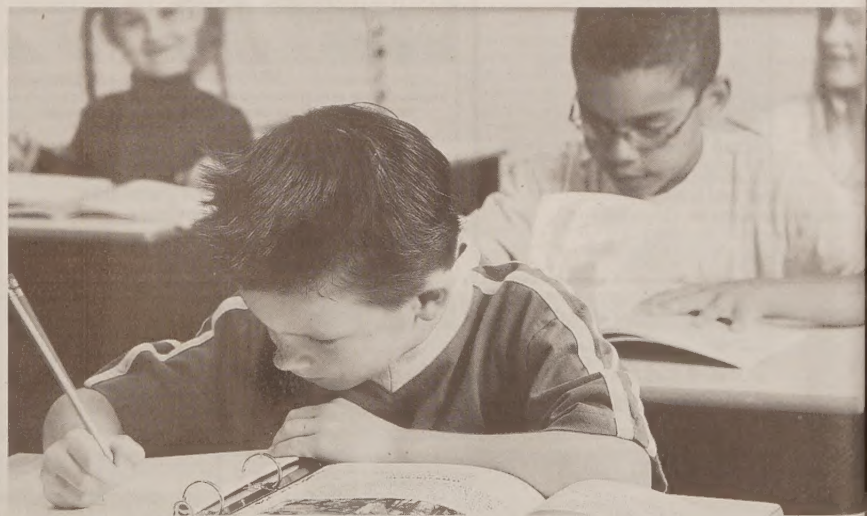
with the study of the history and appreciation of both disciplines, are fully integrated into the curriculum. The students at The Renaissance School learn a second and a third language from native speakers in "immersion classrooms." The students thrive in a multicultural and multi-ethnic environment provided by the faculty who represent many countries from five continents. In order to continue the strong commitment to the students and their families, the school is expanding and opening a middle school.

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# Rosenbaum

PAGE A1

I'm really excited about this. There's more than just science and health. It deals with sociological and psychological implications. There's interdisciplinary and danger around the Internet. It's really designed to help in the discussion, answer real questions students have about maintaining safety, when their behavior becomes dangerous, whether alcohol or peer influence. It's going to be a graduation requirement for every ninth grader to take that course. ... I'm every freshman to be excited about this information for a year. I think that's a huge

The school district's drug and alcohol task force was busy discussing those issues but disappeared recently. What happened?

I think there were two things. The energy level was high, because there was a lot of intense work going into it, the district and a lot of people working on it were starting to see the broader issues; it's a broad spectrum. So the drug and alcohol and health

"We realize block scheduling is a much more civil way of teaching. It's not unanimous by any means. Some of the foreign language teachers feel they need practice every day. PE teachers feel that kids need to exercise everyday."

— Ron Rosenbaum, Albany High principal

around drugs and alcohol, fits into the bigger picture of the total health of the individual, resiliency issues, what makes kids successful — successful as a human being.

A lot of this is things students have been asking for, rather than something we're imposing on them. We're not looking at health as 'Just say no, answer my questions.' (Students are asking): 'How do I know I'm safe, how do I know my friends are safe, and why do we make

them unsafe?' Wanting safer dances and having a policy that you can check students for intoxication on the way to dances. That's something students are stressing here. That's what they actually want.

The last dance (the winter ball) we had was incredibly successful. We breathalyzed students, and there wasn't one complaint. Nobody got sick, most of them had fun, lots of parents had fun.

**Q: What other issues has the school been addressing?**

A: For quite a while there's been a requirement for freshmen to take a class called earth space science, which is geology and space science. They're required but now that we're adding the health requirements, we're also making that course ... one of many electives. Students have asked, 'Well if earth space science is going to be an elective, why can't we elect to take biology or maybe chemistry if we're ready?'

There's been a lot of debate as to whether or not earth space is a valuable course. I'm an science teacher, so I think all science courses are valuable. But there's been questions as to ... why don't we allow our freshmen a choice in science?

(Parents say) 'biology meets a UC Berkeley science require-

ment, where earth-space science doesn't. My child is more interested in biology than earth space science; why can't they take it as freshmen? Is there a rational behind that?' Some people say yes, some people say no.

**Q: How is the school handling its growing student population?**

A: We have 1,200 students this year, and we anticipate 40 to 50 more next year, so the stairs will be slightly more crowded. We're reaching capacity in classroom use. A lot of our teaching staff have to share classrooms now, and that's going to increase. We don't have enough science labs; we just don't have enough classrooms for every teacher to have their own classroom now.

Meanwhile, I will do my best to make sure there's a class for every kid in every period. It's getting harder and harder.

**Q: Classes were arranged into 'blocks' this year where some classes meet some days but not others. How is that working?**

A: It's based on the belief that more time in one class allows more in-depth work. It allows teachers to meet fewer students per day, so there's less student contact and more face time per student. And it would allow students to prepare for less classes each day.

The model we have here is that we meet all seven classes on Mondays but on Tuesdays and Thursdays only even classes meet. (Classes meet for 95 minutes instead of the usual 55).

We're committed to giving it a few years. But we want to decide whether we need to fiddle with it at all. One thing teachers didn't expect is the Mondays where they meet in the kind of schedule they used to in the past — all of sudden now they find Mondays very cramped, there's not enough time.

Almost every department says that you know what, Mondays, the way we always taught, is a pain. Now we realize block scheduling is a much more civil way of teaching. It's not unanimous by any means. Some of the foreign language teachers feel they need practice every day. PE teachers feel that kids need to exercise every day.

We're going to try to figure out all this stuff. We will actually meet with parents and students to talk about this, get some parent and student feedback.

**Q: You had an interesting experience at Oakland Tech High School, where you were asked to make a dent in the truancy problem there.**

A: At Oakland Tech, which had a reputation of being a tougher school than it is, right

before I came had a big truancy program with kids who were herded into class, being late to class, and breaking out the windows and hurting people.

Every time something went wrong at the school, it became more and more repressive. That's the intuitive thing to do. Kids are acting up, let's lock them out of class, which is what happened. Teachers would lock their doors after five minutes and not let kids in. They would lock the bathrooms.

When I got hired, the first meeting I went to before I got hired was a violence-prevention committee that the district had taken out of the site administration's hands. When I heard that, it was ... I'll take this job and you can have site decision making — I'm totally into that — but ... every bathroom is open, clean, and no teacher will lock a student out for any reason.

The majority of kids want to go to school, they want to learn, they don't want to feel intimidated walking around, they want us to be friendly to them. They want to love their school. They spend all their waking hours here. I've done lot of that work here (in Albany). It's just not as intense, because our kids are not as needy in Albany as in Oakland.

# SCHOOLS And PROGRAMS

## ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Established in 1883, Zion Lutheran School continues to provide a fully accredited academic curriculum within a Christian community for students in grades K-8. We provide a stellar, yet quite flexible, academic program as well as various recreational activities. Our campus is safely located within the Oakland/Mont Hills.

Students excel in our small classes. Our devoted teachers are the success of each student. We see to it that each student receives the individual attention that he/she deserves, resulting in high self-esteem and academic excellence.

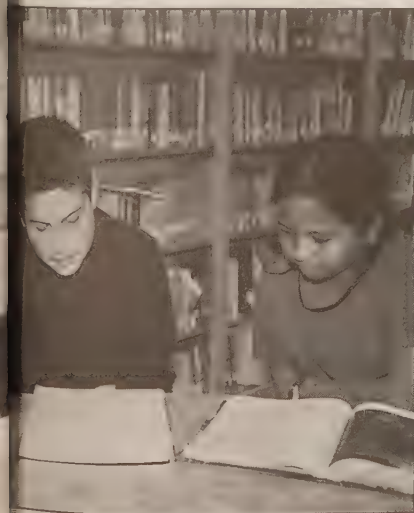
Beginning in a full-day kindergarten, Zion students benefit from a full-time P.E. instructor, interscholastic sports, and an excellent music program.

We encourage creativity in art and crafts and drama

productions. We endorse a true appreciation for diversity, with multicultural fairs and instruction in foreign language. Science fairs and field trips enrich the students' understanding of lessons taught within the classroom.

Zion Lutheran School is devoted, not just to the student, but to the family. We provide before- and after-school child care and encourage family involvement in the school. Our active Parent Forum works with our administration and teachers, developing strong relationships and trust.

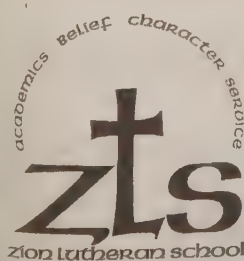
We work with each prospective family individually, offering tours of the school based on personal availability. Please call for more information and to arrange for a tour at (510) 530-7909.



## ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

### OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, May 7th  
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.



2201 Park Boulevard, Piedmont, CA 94611  
510-530-7909

## TEHIYAH DAY SCHOOL

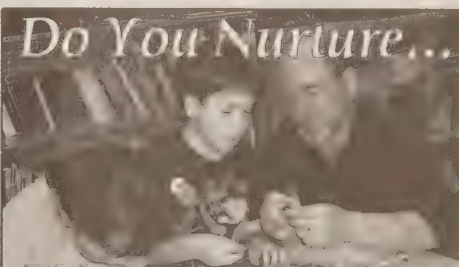
Tehiyah Day School is a Jewish community day school which instills the joy of learning through active intellectual inquiry and the practice of Jewish values and by honoring diversity. Tehiyah adheres to the principle of pluralism in both Jewish and American living and respects the customs and traditions of all students.

The dynamic general and Judaic curricula, school-wide celebrations, classroom activities, and informal interactions stimulate growth and curiosity and are designed to foster a meaningful aesthetic and spiritual experience.

Tehiyah's high academic standards are further enriched by vibrant visual and performing arts, athletics, technology, and after-school programs. The school often becomes a focus for community life and a source of enduring friendships.

Tehiyah aspires to nurture the unique potential of every student so that each may continue to pursue lifelong learning.

You are invited to tour our beautiful campus at any time. To schedule a tour or to learn more, contact Amy Friedman at (510) 233-3013 ext. 239.



## ...Your Child's Heart or Mind?



**Both. Welcome to Tehiyah Day School!**  
Our outstanding academics, unique spirit and rich educational environment foster the joy of learning, in both heart and mind. Tehiyah's diverse and nurturing community, based on Jewish values, is a place where every child can flourish, and where all traditions are welcome. It's not surprising that Tehiyah was voted the best Jewish Day School in the Bay Area in the "J" Weekly.

**For a Tour or to Learn More:**  
Phone: (510) 233-3013 ext. 239 E-mail: afriedman@tehiyah.org  
K - 8th Grade • Fully Accredited • Bus Service • After-school Care  
www.tehiyah.org

## ARCHWAY SCHOOL

With our recent expansion and fall opening of our 5th through 8th Grade Upper School campus in Berkeley as well as the improvements to our K-4th Grade Lower School campus in Oakland, this has been an exciting year for Archway School.

Archway School has a long and proud tradition of providing a rich hands-on curriculum to its students in kindergarten through grade 8. Our wonderfully diverse teaching staff and beautiful campuses provide students a unique environment in which to develop academic and personal excellence. At Archway we are committed to engaging children's natural curiosity, engaging children in their own learning, respecting individual progress, valuing social development service to the

community, and maintaining diversity in our classrooms, curriculum, and community. We are very pleased to announce our expansion and opening of our Berkeley upper school campus and shuttle service from Oakland. Features of our new site include a gymnasium, multimedia lab, science lab, and proximity to Berkeley's "gourmet ghetto."

For information about tours please call 510-547-4747 (Oakland) or 510-849-4747 (Berkeley).

We are currently accepting applications for grades K-8 for the 2006-07 school year. Visit us online at [www.archwayschool.org](http://www.archwayschool.org). Archway School is a program of Woods Edge, Inc., a nonprofit organization established in 1973.



**Berkeley Campus**  
5th - 8th Grade  
1940 Virginia Street, Berkeley  
510-849-4747

**Oakland Campus**  
Kindergarten - 4th Grade  
250 41st Street, Oakland  
510-547-4747

## ARCHWAY SCHOOL



Kindergarten through 8th grade  
Rich & rigorous hands-on curriculum  
Exceptional teachers  
Before- and after-school program on site

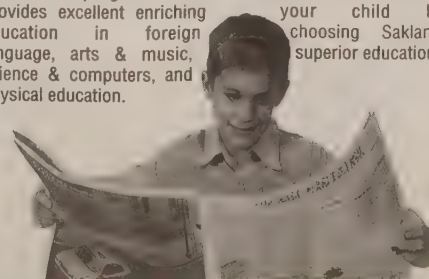
[www.archwayschool.org](http://www.archwayschool.org)

## SAKLAN VALLEY SCHOOL

Small class size makes a big difference in the quality of your child's education. Research has demonstrated that classes of 15 or below have a dramatic positive impact on academic achievement, social development and emotional well-being when compared to classrooms of 20 or above. Saklan Valley School features a top-notch academic preparation in classes that average 12 and are capped at 16. Our program also provides excellent enriching education in foreign language, arts & music, science & computers, and physical education.

Saklan educates children from all over the East Bay beginning in Preschool (age 3) and running through to 8th Grade. We are located on a lovely small campus under redwood trees in beautiful Moraga Valley, and we offer shuttle transportation from Alamo, Lafayette and Orinda.

For a personal tour of the campus, call us at 925.376.7900 or visit our web site at [www.saklan.org](http://www.saklan.org). Consider investing in your child by choosing Saklan's superior education.



A SUPERIOR EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILD

PRESCHOOL - ELEMENTARY - MIDDLE SCHOOL



saklan  
valley  
school



small classes & personal attention  
safe, country day setting  
academic excellence & character development  
fully accredited by CAIS & WASC

Consider the difference a small class size can make for your child's intellectual, social, and emotional development. Our class size average is just 12.

Since 1954, Saklan has been serving families from all over the East Bay at its centrally located campus in beautiful Moraga Valley, just 15 minutes from Montclair to the West and Walnut Creek to the East. Van shuttle service provided.

1678 School Street | Moraga, CA 94556  
925-376-7900 | [www.saklan.org](http://www.saklan.org)





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# Real Estate

HOUSES · RENTALS · COMMERCIAL · MORTGAGES

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclair, The Piedmont



DENNIS EVANOSKY

PERKIN'S Dawn Road creation offers four levels of quality appointments and views to match.

## Crafted Modernism in the Oakland hills

BY DENNIS EVANOSKY  
SECTION EDITOR

Designer Philip Perkins crafted four-plus-bedroom, five-plus-bath home at 7 Dawn Road in the Oakland hills to capture the views of nearby hills and the distant San Francisco Bay. His success is evident the moment you walk into the front door.

The 6,300 square-foot home is set in the exclusive Dawn Estates and encloses you in the quiet privacy of your own acre of land. The detail and design of Perkins' level Crafted Modernist gem is

The finishes, fixtures and custom cabinetry reflect a rich palette of colors drawn from nature.

of the highest quality. The finishes, fixtures and custom cabinetry reflect his use of a rich palette of colors drawn from nature.

Fireplaces add warmth to the master bedroom, the guesthouse, the family room and the living room. Every major room is prewired for speakers and NetStream. A TCIP-based household system, "infinitely

expandable, speakers, stereo, intercom, command touch screens bring you into the 21st century.

There is a family room with a retractable TV platform, a home theater, a private library/office and a game room with a wet bar. A luxurious master suite and a gourmet chef's kitchen with the highest quality appliances and stacked glass is-

### Real Estate Spotlight:

## Magnificent Mediterranean



This contemporary Mediterranean at 13402 Campus Drive sits high in the hills amid grand, custom homes in Ridgmont, one of Oakland's more desirable neighborhoods. It is graced by majestic cypress trees and beautifully landscaped grounds which are enclosed by a custom wrought-iron fence and gate. Upon entering, step down from the gleaming foyer into the centerpiece of the home, a dramatic, approximately thirty-foot high, octagonal living room/atrium which is accented with archways. It has five bedrooms and five baths, which include a sumptuous master suite. The chef's kitchen has granite slab counters, a cooking island and a Sub-Zero refrigerator. Custom oak and cherry cabinetry and European-inspired lighting fixtures are used throughout. There are many other custom features and finishes. Other features include a home office, an indoor hot tub, two fireplaces, skylights and a family room with an entertainment center. To enhance outdoor living and entertaining there is a spacious rear deck and a level yard and patio. This home will enchant you.

**Price:** \$1,975,000 **Open:** April 23 and April 30 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Listing Agent:** Nancy Dickey, Coldwell Banker, 510-339-4716. Photos at [www.nancydickey.com](http://www.nancydickey.com)

land help set the home apart.

Decks, patios and a bocce court complement the home's exterior. The home offers two, two-car garages — one attached to the guest quarters.

Photocell-activated entry lights show the way as you approach the front door with its amber and fluted

glass. Just inside is a wine bar with a corking area and wine display, a stone sink and wine racks.

**Main Level:** The family room has a sliding TV cabinet above the ceramic gas log fireplace with its forest green quartzite stone detailing. From here you'll enjoy bay views and access to the deck. The

home's patio-like dining room has a built-in Brazilian rift-sawn mahogany sideboard with fluted glass panels. The living room has a wood-burning fireplace with Luxor Gold and San Mateo split-face stone detailing. The powder room

See HOME, Page B2

## MONTCLAIR



Our office is independently owned and operated

1986 Mountain Blvd.  
Oakland, CA 94611  
510.339.8400

1430 Leimert Blvd.  
Oakland, CA 94602  
510.339.4000

## OPEN HOMES



**OAKLAND**  
**SKYLINE CIRCLE**  
\$965,000  
3bd/3.5ba contemp. Has San Francisco Bay, Bay Bridge, GG views. Lush green hillside setting. Beautiful woods, granite & tile kitchen & baths. **OPEN SUN 1-5**  
Mary Greene 339-8400-899.6305

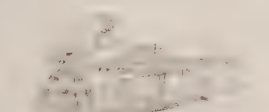
**WOODS**  
**CALDECOTT LN #124**  
\$515,000  
Custom kitchen cabinets and counter. New chef quality stainless steel appls. Hardwood floors - Nice view! Desirable building #260 **OPEN SUN 2-5**  
Dreneman 339.8400-339.4557

**WELL PARK**  
**SAN CARLOS AVENUE**  
\$499,999  
3bd/1.5ba Bungalow. Orig architectural charm in Maxwell Park w/ FDR, fireplace, spacious kitchen & breakfast room, deck, and cook's kitchen. **OPEN SUN 2-4:30**  
Dreneman 339.8400-339.4557

**OAKLAND**  
**WEST GRAND AVE #18**  
\$429,000  
2bd/2 levels, 5 min to 19th St BART. New gourmet kitchen, large 1 bedroom 2 bath, fireplace, deck, and cook's kitchen. **OPEN SUN 2-4:30**  
Dreneman 339.8400-339.4557

**HAYWARD**  
**1256 STANHOPE LN #150**  
\$379,000  
Bright, sunny 2bd/2ba corner unit w/open floor plan, fireplace, pool, spa & garage. Won't last! **OPEN SUN 2-4:30**  
Nader Davari 339.8400-339.4566

## APPOINTMENT



**MONTCLAIR**  
**5110 CROCKETT PLACE**  
\$1,490,000  
World class beauty. Million dollar views! Gourmet kitchen, lg family room, 2 master suites, separate 2 room guest suite. Near Montclair village shopping and regional parks. Photo tour @  
MaryJaneMcConville.com 339-8400-339.4280



**CONCORD**  
**5282 HIDDENCREST**  
\$1,395,000  
Gorgeous 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath designer home in the exclusive Crystal Ranch area w/ lots of upgrades. Huge 1/3 acre lot perfect for outdoor entertaining.  
Pamela Finney 339.8400-899.6326



**ROCKRIDGE**  
**525 FOREST STREET**  
\$1,095,000  
CRAFTSMAN Home or two 2bd flats. Owners unit with stone fireplace, box beam ceiling, hwd flrs, 3 car garage, new roof, short walk to Bart.  
Caroline Peters 339.8400-339.4554



**REDWOOD HEIGHTS**  
**4224 REINHARDT DR**  
\$1,088,000  
Hdwd/marble/granite flrs, Great Room w/fireplace, FLR, cat-in kitchen, master suite w/ fireplace & hot tub in bathroom. Laundry, 2 car garage.  
Ken Nwokedi 339.8400-485.5119



**PIEDMONT PINES**  
**5870 ASCOT DRIVE**  
\$860,000  
Private setting yet close to schools and transportation exquisite outdoor living includes heated pool. Open floor plan and beamed ceilings.  
See tour and photos at:  
PatriciaBennett.com 339-8400-482.9000



**OAKLAND**  
**1942 ROSECREST DRIVE**  
\$849,000  
Very private 3+1bd/3ba home in a very special setting! Flexible floorplan, great home office, 2 fireplaces.  
See tour and photos at:  
PatriciaBennett.com 339-8400-482.9000



**OAKLAND**  
**67 GLENEDEN AVENUE**  
\$820,000  
1940's charming 3bd/2ba w/great light & many built-ins. Beautifully landscaped yard w/hot tub, big garage. See tour and photos at:  
PatriciaBennett.com 339-8400-482.9000

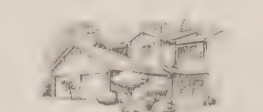


**CROCKER HIGHLANDS**  
**673 ROSAL AVENUE**  
\$799,000  
Grand 3+1/5 traditional elegant formal rooms, Chef's kitchen with Viking Range, large breathtaking gardens.  
Jennie Lippincott 339.8400-384.3557



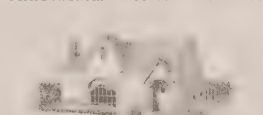
**TEMESCAL BORDER**  
**529 45TH STREET**  
\$778,000  
Beautiful Victorian duplex. Temescal border. Lrg upper perfect for owner! Each w/hdwd flrs, cat-in kitchen & laundry.  
Regina Jacobs 339.8400-339.4568

**OAKLAND**  
**5214 E. 12TH STREET**  
\$700,000  
Excellent opportunity to own a live/work warehouse. Consists of 3 offices or bedrooms, a tall roll up door, large garage/shop space, full kitchen. 1.5ba.  
Ken Nwokedi 339.4000-485.5110



**GLENVIEW**  
**3952 CANON AVENUE**  
\$625,000  
Charming creekside brown shingle townhome. Lovely hardwood, high ceilings. See tour and photos at:  
PatriciaBennett.com 339-8400-482.9000

**OAK KNOLL**  
**3425 MIRASOL AVENUE**  
\$615,000  
3bd/2ba with Formal living room & fireplace, FDR, Beautiful hardwood floors throughout, new int. paint, laundry room & 2-car garage.  
Ken Nwokedi 339.4000-485.5110



**MAXWELL PARK**  
**4727 MELDON AVENUE**  
\$599,000  
English Tudor, level in 3bd/2ba, beautiful orig. details, kitchen redone, lg family room, city views from bed.  
Jennie Lippincott 339.8400-384.3557



**MAXWELL PARK**  
**2963 55TH AVENUE**  
\$529,000  
Sweet 2bd/1ba starter w/1920's charm. Lovely hardwood floors, magical back yard. See tour and photos at:  
PatriciaBennett.com 339-8400-482.9000

**MILLSMONT**  
**6132 MAURITANIA AVE**  
\$489,000  
2bd/1ba. FLR w/ frplc, dining room, beautiful hdwd flrs, roomy kitchen, sunny breakfast nook, new int/ext paint. Lrg rear yard.  
Ken Nwokedi 339.4000-485.5119

**MILLSMONT**  
**2509 66TH AVENUE**  
\$399,950  
Spacious 3bd/2ba bungalow w/hdwd flrs throughout. Fireplace and formal dining room. Needs some TLC.  
Tom Watson 339.8400-899.6364

## COMING SOON

**CALDECOTT**  
**320 CALDECOTT LANE #118**  
\$535,000  
Coming Soon! Totally remodeled unit: New oak floors, new kitchen with granite counters, new bathroom and more. **Open 4/23/06**  
Michael Harding 339.4000-899.6307

**OAKLAND**  
**7840 MICHIGAN AVENUE**  
\$699,000  
Stunning 3bd/2.5ba contemp. Built in 1995, panoramic bay views, master suite w/deep tub, FLR w/fireplace, hardwood floors, decks. See: [www.7840michiganave.com](http://www.7840michiganave.com)  
Jennifer Hobbs 339.8400-633.0335

**DIMOND**  
**2876 CARMEL**  
\$389,000  
Spacious 2bd/1ba single-floor condo, nearly level-in. One of only four in quiet area below Mormon Temple. Wonderful details - colorful new kitchen & bath. Hdwd flrs, gas stove, private laundry.  
Jim Schubert 339.4000-899.6310

## COMMERCIAL

**Class A Office Space For Lease**  
Individual offices or the entire floor. Walking distance to Lake Merritt, close proximity to Montclair village.  
Mark Attarha 339.4000-339.6300

**New Listing!** \$2,650,000  
28 units, walking distance to Lake Merritt. Priced aggressively for market. Security parking.  
Mark Attarha 339.4000-339.6300

**New Listing!** \$2,860,000  
Development project in the heart of Jack London Square. Zoned for 44 Condos or live/work space.  
Mark Attarha 339.4000-339.6300

**New Listing!** \$2,350,000  
Development project, 15,500 sq ft, level lot, R70 zoning. Current zoning allows up to 32 units. Piedmont border on Monte Vista Ave.  
Mark Attarha 339.4000-339.6300

**SEMINARY**  
**6114-6120 FOOTHILL BLVD**  
\$960,000  
2 Spanish style bldgs, 6 units each, recently refurbished inside. Total of 12 units facing courtyard. Eight 1bd, 3 studios, one 2bd. Manager's units.  
Rosemary Greene 339.8400-899.6305





## House

FROM PAGE B1

on the main level boasts a Verona sink by Stone Forest and a square faucet by Dornbracht for Villeroy & Boch.

A stacked glass island with a forest green quartzite stone counter sets off the gourmet kitchen with its built-in espresso maker and three sinks: one for clean up, a prep sink in the stacked glass island — both by Blanco — and a Kohler sink in the buffet area. The island hood is manufactured by Zephyr. The perimeter counters are Saint Martin limestone. Perkins set a mirrored backsplash behind the trough sink to reflect the view back to the breakfast nook with its built-in cafe benches and table.

**Mezzanine:** The mezzanine has its own microwave oven, a dish-

washer, an icemaker, a refrigerator and a forest green stone counter. Here you'll find a home theater with a sheer theater curtain, with a screen projector, 7.2 surround sound, two-level seating, a Net-Stream panel, audio automation system and sub woofers — all can be remotely controlled.

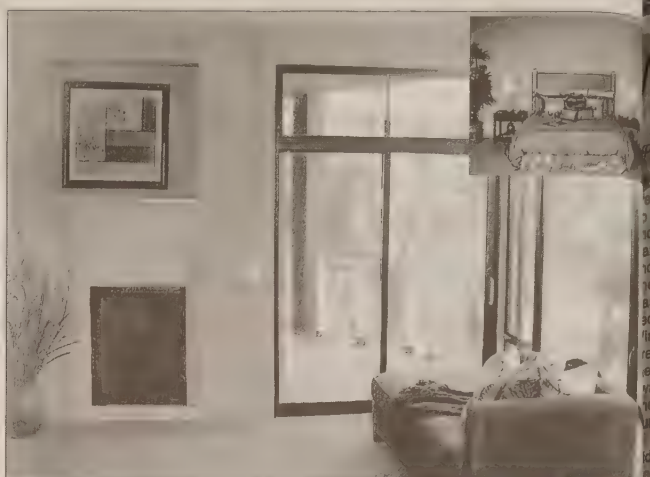
**Upper level:** The room on the home's upper level with its built-in table or desk can be used as a library, an office or a place to simply get away from it all. The upper level also has a guest room with a bath. The bath has limestone with glass tile accents, a Ladena sink by Kohler, a Corten Steel ceramic tile floor and Yellow Dream antiqued limestone shower surrounds. The entire upper level could also be used as an au pair suite.

**Bedroom level:** The master suite's accouterments include two dressing rooms each with a built-in

bureau, a gas fireplace with Luxor Gold and limestone detailing, a sitting area with a panoramic bay view and a sliding door to the deck. The adjoining master bath features a Boffi tub, a Dornbracht RainSky water sculpture, a pair of Kohler shower heads with four Kohler body sprays — each separately controlled —, a sliding door leads from from shower to deck.

This level also has a master bedroom and two standard bedrooms. Perkins has designed the home so that each bedroom has bay views.

**Game level:** The game room has a sink, a refrigerator, an icemaker and a microwave, a Hans Grohe Axor kitchen faucet complements the Saint Martin limestone counter here. There is also a game room bath, where you'll find you can bathe with a HansGrohe shower column. A mosaic stone detail, a Lacava sink by Elkay and a



PHOTOS BY DEB

**A STACKED GLASS ISLAND** with a forest green quartzite stone counter sets off the gourmet kitchen at 7 Dawn Street, left. The master suite has a gas fireplace with Luxor Gold and limestone detailing, a sitting area with a panoramic bay view and a sliding door to the deck, above.

## VITAL STATISTICS

**What:** A Philip Perkins-designed Crafted Modernist home at 7 Dawn Street in the Oakland Hills.

**Size:** A 6,300-square-foot home on a one-acre lot

**Bedrooms:** Four

**Bathrooms:** Five full; one partial

**Features:** High-tech amenities accent this home's four levels of quality appointments that include gourmet kitchen, a wine bar, an office, a media room and a bocce court. The master bedroom features a built-in rift-sawn mahogany sideboard with fluted glass panels. The master bath has a gas fireplace and a sitting area with a panoramic view. There is also a guesthouse with built-in hardwood floors and a separate entrance.

**Price:** \$4,250,000 **Open House:** 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, April 23 or by appointment

**Virtual Tour:** www.7dawn.com

**Listing agents:** Nancy Platford, Prudential California Realty, 510-845-0211 or Holly Rose 510-981-3057 and Diane Southworth 510-981-3057, Coldwell Banker.

HansGrohe wall mounted lav faucet all complement this level.

**Guest house:** The guest house has a microwave, a dishwasher, a refrigerator, a Saint Martin limestone counter and Burmese Teak hardwood floors throughout. A Ladena sink by Kohler, a Corten Steel ce-

ramic tile floor and Yellow Dream antiqued limestone shower-surrounds complement the guesthouse bath. The ceramic log gas fireplace has Luxor Gold limestone detailing. There is a small exterior deck with stairs to street. The guest house has bay views and views of

downtown Oakland including lights around Lake Merritt.

The home has two full two-car garages with vaulted ceilings and Burmese mahogany doors.

—Sincere thanks to Nancy Platford for her help with this listing.

## Make a difference: Invest in your community

Every year we Americans face the ritual of filing tax returns. While the process is unavoidable, investors frequently look for effective ways to lessen the impact of taxes on the overall returns of their portfolios. More investors — particularly those in higher tax brackets — are finding that municipal bonds can help reduce their tax burden, and at the same time add stability and diversification to their portfolios.

Issued by state and local governments, municipal bonds are commonly used to raise money for community projects and improvements. These include a broad range of developments, such as new highways, improved sewer systems, or even new school buildings. As with other bonds, by purchasing a municipal bond, you are really making a loan to the issuing municipality. That state or local government, in turn, promises to pay you a given rate of interest while you hold the bond and return your principal at maturity.

One of the most attractive features of municipal bonds is their freedom from certain taxes. The bonds typically pay interest every six months and, unlike other investments, the interest you earn is not subject to federal taxes. In addition, this tax exemption can extend to state and local taxes if you reside in the state or community where the bonds were issued. Keep in mind that certain types of municipal bonds may be subject to state or local taxes, or the alternative minimum tax, so it is important to know exactly how specific issues will be treated before making a purchase.

Whether or not a municipal bond is subject to state or local taxes, its freedom from federal taxes on its earned interest can significantly

increase the after-tax return of your portfolio. Investing in municipal bonds possibly can allow you to diminish your overall tax burden by decreasing the amount of your income subject to taxes. Less money spent on taxes means more money to spend on other pursuits. Or, if you so choose, there will be more money available for reinvesting or saving.

While the tax advantages of municipal bonds may be appealing, several other qualities can make them an important addition to an investor's portfolio. For one thing, you can enjoy interest payments every six months. In addition, though it does not eliminate the credit risk of bonds, many are backed by insurance, thereby increasing the security of your investment. The credit enhancement does not remove market risk of the bonds, and there is no assurance as to the insurer's ability to meet its commitments. Keep in mind bonds may be worth more or less than their original cost upon redemption or upon sale prior to redemption.

Bonds can be bought and sold in the open market, so you do have the opportunity to liquidate your bond before it matures. Investors should keep in mind that as interest rates rise, existing bond prices of already outstanding fixed income securities tend to fall. Long-term bonds are generally more exposed to interest rate risk than short-term bonds. Depending on current interest rates, the price you receive may be more or less than your original investment, but you do have the option to sell should you need to.

Finally, almost every state and thousands of municipalities issue bonds each year, so you have a wide variety to choose from. With



LEILA GOUGH  
Money Matters

One of the most attractive features of municipal bonds is their freedom from certain taxes. The bonds typically pay interest every six months and, unlike other investments, the interest you earn is not subject to federal taxes.

maturities ranging anywhere from one to 30 years, you can plan for current or future income. And the variety of available bonds lets you easily diversify your municipal bond holdings.

*A.G. Edwards generally acts as a broker-dealer, but may act as an investment advisor on designated accounts, and the firm's obligations will vary with the role it plays. When working with clients the firm generally acts as a broker-dealer unless specifically indicated in writing. To better understand the differences between brokerage and advisory services, please consult Important Information About Your Relationship With A.G. Edwards on agedwards.com.*

Leila Gough is an Associate Vice President with A. G. Edwards in Oakland. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.

## When it comes to home inspection once may not be enough

BY SUZETTE HACKNEY  
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Real estate myth No. 33: You only need to have a house inspected before you purchase it.

While I've never given readers a list of real estate myths (it was just my attempt at cleverness), I do think it's important to debunk the idea that your home needs only one inspection.

An inspection can be helpful for those buying, selling or simply maintaining a home. But guess what? Every homeowner falls into one of those categories.

There are already positive statistics showing that home owners of the future understand the importance of a house inspection. According to the Homeownership Alliance, an organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting home ownership opportunities, 10 million Americans will enter the housing market by 2013.

Of those, an estimated 77 percent understand the benefits of a home inspector and will work with one, according to a 2004 study by the alliance. But those of us who already own a home

may have a difficult time determining if an inspection is necessary. Luckily, the American Society of Home Inspectors offers a checklist of other times or situations when a home should be inspected. So before making a decision, ask yourself these questions:

■ Was the home inspected when purchased? If not, an inspection is warranted regardless of how long you've been in the home, even if it was new construction.

■ Have you been in the home at least three to five years? If the answer is yes, a home inspection is a good idea since homes and home systems age and deteriorate even with proper ongoing maintenance.

■ Are you planning to do any major remodeling or renovation? Whether it's a do-it-yourself project or a project with a contractor, now is a good time to determine whether there are problem areas requiring attention that may have been overlooked. Certain problems, if not discovered, could complicate, delay or derail the renovation.

■ Have you recently undergone

a major remodel or renovation? It never hurts to have an objective opinion about the work has been done to ensure there are no remaining issues.

■ Are you an older home owner planning to remain in your home as you age? Elderly home owners may have more difficulty dressing ongoing maintenance concerns or inspecting hard-to-reach areas. A professional home inspector can point out maintenance or safety issues and recommend when to hire outside help for specific problems.

■ Are you a first-time home owner who doesn't know the ins and outs of maintaining your home? A professional home inspection can be an invaluable education for the new home owner, especially if one was not performing the purchasing process the buyer was not present.

■ Do you have small children or a baby on the way? New parents have special concerns about safety in the home, and an inspector can help point out problems, such as hard-to-reach mold, that could cause harm to a growing family.

## Seminar highlights assistance programs for nurses

RE/MAX IN MOTION

In the tradition of Clara Barton and Florence Nightingale, our modern-day nurses dedicate their lives to our communities. But the future of quality health care is in jeopardy, due to a nursing shortage. Forecasts predict our nurse population will continue to decrease, if solutions are not found. A primary problem is many of these professionals cannot afford to buy a home, in the cities where they offer care. With salaries in a low to moderate range, they question if homeownership is

an attainable goal. A free "First Homes for Nurses" event 11 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, April 22, at the RE/MAX Conference Center, Realtor Jonathan F. RE/MAX in Motion presents a class, along with expert speakers. You must pre-register. Seating is limited. Attendees receive special services discounts, presenters and a free credit evaluation. To learn more, call Fleming at 888-681-7777 or visit [www.rxhomebgram.com](http://www.rxhomebgram.com).

## Don't miss the Weekly Sales in the Auto Section on page D5.

### open sunday

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# Water, water everywhere

Number 510 in a series of true experiences in real estate. Will it ever stop raining? We've seen people lined up for weeks to see our listings who either can't do their jobs or are going ahead and getting wet while they work. Gardeners raked paths, weeded and trimmed shrubs in the rain. They used a power washer to wash away moss on wooden decks and concrete as it rained. Window washers waited for a break in the weather, steadied their ladders well and washed away until it started raining again. They returned the following day for a brief clearing to finish. At one house the gardeners seemed to mind being drenched. They laughed and called comments to one another, moving quickly, gathering green debris into bags to carry to the curb. We were there that day and all seemed so cheerful. Of course it wasn't one of those total downpour days, just a heavy sprinkle.

At another house a painter was waiting for a break in the weather to touch up exterior paint. And a small patch of sod going to be laid - if it ever stops raining - in a back garden. Anet and I were in Napa a few weeks ago visiting my cousins in their family ranch. The river was through it. And this year, the river rose up and ran over a vineyard knocking to the ground a few grapevine supports and the plants too. The family had been hoping for a good clear day to upright and secure the vines but unable, like the rest of us, to predict the weather, they'd simply chosen a day.

What fantastic luck that on the appointed day, the sun was out, the sky was blue, the softly rolling hills that can be seen beyond the ranch were green. We slogged through heavy, and in places, deep mud following the sounds of voices until we came to a gloriously beautiful scene. About a dozen people were standing

in a vineyard side by side in a long line, one person for each plant.

On a shout, everyone lifted his vine upright and supports were then pulled taut. The colors, the sight of them was very beautiful. Sky and hills, yellow mustard, green tractor, shirts and jackets and boots every color.

My tenant reported a different sort of water problem, nothing to do with the weather. Actually, he wasn't sure what was causing the stain that was growing in size on his living room floor, but it did turn out to be water. When the spot was first noticed, it was only a couple of inches in diameter; the tenant emailed me a photo. But over the next week or so before I could get someone there to check it out, it doubled in size.

A pet was not responsible for the stain, no plant had been over-watered, no drink spilled. There was no trail from the closest water source, the water heater. But that's what was leaking. A tiny amount had been dripping under the floor, running across the building paper laid there, and accumulating in a low spot.

Shaun, our friend and contractor, figured this all out without having to take up any floorboards and he installed a new water heater. He added an alarm that goes off if water leaks onto the floor and automatically shuts off the water too. A few floorboards will have to be replaced but I figure I got off lucky; my tenant told me what was happening before the water caused more damage.

At my own house the rain has made the garden unusually lush and spring green. Even tiny cactuses I stuck in a dry spot last year, figuring that's what they'd prefer, are loving the water. But my clay soil is thick and mucky, almost gelatinous. I don't know how slender plant roots can breathe in it or why the bulbs don't rot, but all is thriving in the garden.



TARPOFF AND TALBERT  
True Experiences

Downstairs in my house, however, there is a lot of water on the concrete floor of the garage. Water stands still in a 10-foot long, fairly skinny patch. It freaks me out. There is probably a supply of water under the raised wooden floor of the adjacent finished room. I can't see under this floor or do anything about the water except to sweep it out the door.

I do this a couple of times a day wondering all the while why I try. Within a couple of hours it is wet exactly as before. And slimy green moss marks the driveway where I've whisked the water. Finding water in the basement was a bad surprise. A dozen years ago when I last found water there after it had rained, I had down spouts changed and an underground drain put in to carry water to the street. These worked perfectly, until now.

This week we held open for the first time a wonderful house, a house blessedly dry in all the right places. The setting is full of nature and has of course received a recent, thorough soaking. Although it had rained the day before and also rained the day after, that good morning was bright and dry. The trees surrounding the house glistened, the creek that runs across the property made lovely, noisy water-running sounds.

We laid out new dry coir doormats at the doorways and opened windows and doors. We set out trays of sandwiches and grilled vegetables and big fat cookies for our visitors. We had a fine time showing off the house and greeting friends on such a fine day.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpo are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at [www.tarpoftalbert.com](http://www.tarpoftalbert.com).

# Above and beyond

Lois Harris serves clients, community, industry

PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY  
Realtor Lois Harris is proud of the sterling service she provides her clients. It has its rewards, Harris says. "The greater part of my business is from former clients. I enjoy the relationships I have developed with them by strengthening their financial base through property ownership."

Harris, an agent at Prudential California Realty's Grand Lake office in Oakland, also serves the real estate industry. While 2005 Oakland Association of Realtors president, she carried the good news of Oakland to the California and the National associations of Realtors. Now, as OAR ex-officio, she chairs the as-

sociation's fund-raising effort that benefit the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The foundation provides a college education to disadvantaged youngsters.

"Working to raise money for the students, I — and all the volunteers — feel that the foundation impacts the lives of these young people and our community in such a positive way, how can you not commit to it?"

Harris has worked as a director for the California Association of Realtors, and has sat for two years on the state's nominating committee. She currently serves as co-chair of the association's Presidents' Leadership Forum.

"The time commitment can be challenging," Harris said. "But when you consider that your voice or your vote may contribute to improved



LOIS HARRIS

circumstances and conditions for the industry and our community, it makes it all worthwhile."

"We are proud to have Lois as a member of the Grand Lake team," broker-manager Amberson "Mac" McCulloch said. "You can always count on her to give her very best."

# Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries

## FOR THE PUBLIC

### Pardee Home

Here's an idea for a one day outing with the kids during Easter vacation. Check this out for a fun and historical visit. At the corner of 11th and Castro streets, in Oakland stands the beautifully preserved Pardee Home Museum. The father of a California governor built the Gold Rush-era home. View the Pardee family gardens and collections of artistic objects from all over the world. Enjoy a guided tour Wednesday, Friday or Saturday. For tour times check the Web site, [www.pardeehome.org](http://www.pardeehome.org).

### Open House

It's a mega Open House! All types of homes will be shown at the Coldwell Banker National Open House Month. Local CB agents expect to hold hundreds of homes open in the Bay Area in the month of April. "Open Houses work well because they create a 'buzz' and draw prospective buyers to a home on the market," said Avram Gold-

man, Coldwell Banker president and CEO. Prospective homebuyers can visit [www.CaliforniaMoves.com](http://www.CaliforniaMoves.com).

### Free Classes

**Seniors.** If you are a Senior Citizen and needing additional income consider a reverse mortgage. The Reverse Mortgage Seminar will help you decide if this option is right for you. The free class is at Bayridge Realty & Financial, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 29. The presenter is reverse mortgage specialist Derry Hampton. The event is hosted by real estate broker Steve Zager. Make your reservation by calling 510-524-3333 ext. 301.

**Earthquake.** Is your home safe? Attend a free seminar on Earthquake Retrofitting & Home Safety, 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, at the North Berkeley Senior Center. Hear guest speaker Howard Cook, FEMA earthquake damage inspector. The event is sponsored by Bay Area Retrofit and Our Land Realty & Funding. Call 510-883-1321 ext. 113.

**Nightingales.** Nurses are there for our communities when needed. Frequently they cannot afford to buy a home. A seminar, "First Homes For Nurses" is 1 p.m., Saturday, April



BOBBIE REID  
Credit: Worthing

22. Special programs are offered to help qualify for down payment and closing cost assistance. Call the Hotline 888-681-7771 ext. 707.

**Series.** "Your Home Team Advantage" (a group of professionals from home mortgage, insurance, title and real estate are teaming up to offer a series of homebuying seminars. The presenters are from Wells Fargo, Gallagher & Lindsey Realtors and Placer Title Company. The seminars will cover First-time, Next and investment buying. Each attendee receives a free credit report and gift. Ask about the date for the next class by calling 510-865-4192 ext. 300.

### Home Help

Homeownership help is out

See REID, Page B5

# How to handle 'the year of the buyer'

BY JANIS MARA  
HUMAN NEWS

What some have described as 'the year of the buyer,' as the real estate market continues to slow, real estate brokerages and agents are using tactics to meet the challenge.

I adjusted my marketing plan. I'm selling in the eye and say, "What. The 'real' is back in the market," said Vince Malta, president of the California Association of Realtors.

Dealing tough with sellers and in a realistic, lower prices is one part of the puzzle, according to Gib Souza, president of the East Association of Realtors. "For someone to survive in this place they need to go back

to the basics," said Souza. "Stay in touch with your clients via your database, tell people what you do for a living so they understand the value of the services we provide."

The "back to basics" theme was echoed by Harley E. Rouda Jr., CEO and managing partner of national franchisor Real Living Inc., one of the largest U.S. residential real estate firms.

"There has been a distinct shift from a seller's market to at best a balanced market alternatively weighted to a buyer's market," Rouda said. "Because of that we are encouraging our agents to go back to the basics in several areas: prospecting, presentations, marketing the listing and negotiating."

In the prospecting area, Rouda

said, "we have a robust Internet technology platform" that automates the process.

"If they've (agents) picked up prospects from open houses, calls on signs, calls on ads, they can identify those prospects as cold leads or hot leads or ultimately a client and input that data."

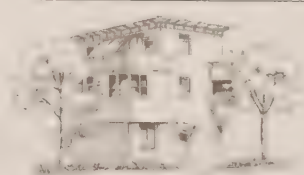
Then, the system will contact the potential clients with the appropriate type of message and frequency. For example, an e-mail every three months to a cold lead with a few listings, as opposed to contacting the prospect more often, Rouda said.

"The second thing is presentations. In a seller's market, often

See BUYER, Page B4

## open sunday

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# The Weekly Sales can be found in the Auto Section on page D5.

I'M WORTH A CLOSER LOOK!

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## Successfully complete your next real estate transaction

Buying and/or selling a home in the Bay Area ranks high on the list of one of life's most stressful events. No matter how many homes you have purchased or sold, the process is different each time. In short, it doesn't get any easier no matter how much money, time or experience you have. If you are about to purchase or sell a home, the following suggestions will hopefully make the process more efficient, smooth and profitable for you.

■ Find an agent you can trust. Integrity, sincerity, reliability and honesty are crucial characteristics. How do you find such a person? A good starting point is to ask the advice of family and friends. Check out local real estate publications and do research on every agent you are considering before narrowing your choice to three or four. Once your list is whittled down, set up an interview with each agent. Look for Realtors; these real estate professionals belong to local and state associations and agree to follow a code of ethics.

You might be thinking, "But, I already have an agent I want to work with." I suggest you still interview other agents. What you will gain from the process are other insights and ideas that may not have been presented to you. Often, your agent of choice will unwittingly show a lack of skill or knowledge in a particular area that is of concern to you.

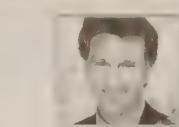
■ Before beginning your search for your next home, provide a list of

"must haves," "would-be-nice" and "optional" preferences to your agent. Even top-producing agents are not mind readers. Clarify your wants and needs. A good agent will match you with the right home providing you have created a solid foundation of good communication. However, if every home is a mis-match or if you feel a lack of "connection" between you and your agent let him/her go and find another.

■ Prices and comparisons don't tell the whole story. Learn what you can about areas by spending time with your agent driving around the neighborhoods and keep asking questions. Go back to the areas you are interested in on your own, at different times of the day, especially if you have children. Pay close attention to what you see and hear.

■ Pricing. If you are planning on selling a home, the most important aspect is pricing it right. The most common error made by sellers is to pick an agent because he/she suggested the highest price. These same agents often come back within a few weeks suggesting a price reduction. Today's buyers are savvier than ever. Buyers carefully research prices and neighborhoods well before they write their first offer. The closer the price is to the point where buyers see value, the more buyers you will have competing for the purchase.

■ Before you sign anything, ask your agent who you will be dealing with throughout the transaction. Some agents work with a team;



STEVE KENDALL  
Guest Columnist

other agents work by themselves. If you prefer working directly with your agent, make sure your agent knows that ahead of time.

Ask the agent if he/she offers a "Satisfaction Guarantee." A good agent will offer, in writing, an opportunity to be released from the contract if you don't feel you are getting the service you deserve. I've heard numerous complaints of clients not only unhappy with the lack of effort from their agent, but also, complete frustration over the fact that their agent refuses to release them from their contract. If your prospective agent offers such a guarantee, have them put it in writing. If they refuse, move on to another agent who will. Remember, you can contact your agents' broker or manager if you aren't happy with the process.

Buying and/or selling a home is a very complex transaction. One wrong move can literally cost you thousands or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. The top stories in the news regarding real estate usually revolve around what went wrong. By carefully choosing an agent you can trust, and doing your homework, hopefully we won't be reading about you and your transaction.

Steve Kendall is a Realtor with Security Pacific Real Estate in Richmond. You can reach him at 510-662-8518 or through his website at [www.skendall.com](http://www.skendall.com).

## A second home may be more an indulgence than wise investment

BY JEFF BROWN

Knight Ridder Newspapers

One of my fantasies is to have a second home near a Vermont ski resort. As impractical as this is, I've watched the for-sale listings on Realtor.com and seen some appealing properties languish for months.

And a buddy of mine complains that he couldn't possibly sell his Vermont home for as much as he paid five or six years ago. It seems like the real estate market has cooled — not just in Vermont but also in many parts of the country. Maybe it's turning into a buyers' market.

So is this a good time to shop for that second home you've wanted? Perhaps — but only if you expect to keep the second home for many years and view it as an indulgence rather than an investment. The days of flipping second homes for quick profits appear to be over, for now at least.

While the median home price was 11.6 percent higher in January than a year earlier, the National Association of Realtors reported Tuesday that sales of existing homes fell 2.8 percent from December to January, the fifth straight month of falling sales. January sales were 5.2 percent below those of January 2005.

Falling sales confirm stories about investment properties sitting empty while speculators who'd hoped for quick turnarounds slash prices in the absence of buyers.

The Northeast was particularly hard hit, with sales off 10 percent from December to January and down 13.2 percent since January 2005.

While sales of single-family homes dropped only 1.5 percent from December to January, condo and co-op sales dropped a whopping 10.6 percent. Previously, this was one of the hottest markets, as buyers gobbled up second homes as investments.

The falling sales confirm stories about investment properties sitting empty while speculators who'd hoped for quick turnarounds slash prices in the absence of buyers.

Second homes and investment properties are hit hardest in a cooling market because people don't need them. Sales of primary homes are always bolstered to some extent by first-time buyers and people who for one reason or another have to move.

Anyone who's read this col-

umn for long knows that a glass-is-half-empty outlook on second homes. As investments they are illiquid — you can't turn your money out with the click of a mouse, as with a stock or mutual fund.

Expenses of maintaining a second home can offset by renting it part of the time, but to get the biggest benefit on a rental you have to severely limit your own use, dealing with renters can be a terrible headache — or a big expense if you hire a manager.

But what about a second home acquired primarily or exclusively for your own use? That's like any indulgence if it makes you happy and have the money, go for it.

But study the numbers, real estate, many people buy on purchase price and price, figuring that if the sec-

See SECOND, Page B8

## Buyer

FROM PAGE B3

agents go in knowing they're going to get the listing. But in a highly competitive market, it's imperative the agent go in with the best foot forward," Rouda said. To that end, he said, the company's technology includes a point-and-click technology through which agents can create presentations customized to individual properties.

As for marketing and servicing listings, Rouda said all firms and agents do a good job in this area, but it's key to make sure the client knows this.

"We have created an automated system to communicate marketing efforts directly to the sellers," Rouda said. E-mail messages direct sellers to customized MyRealLiving sites created for the seller, where

they can see where the property has been advertised, see what the feedback is, what properties are in competition with theirs, price reductions, expirations, and what has sold.

In some highly competitive markets, in the past few years, such tracking technology would have been unnecessary, because houses listed and sold in just days, sometimes hours, Rouda said.

"But now, when properties stay on the market longer, it's helpful," the CEO said.

The last step, Rouda said, is making sure agents have the education in negotiation and skill development to allow them to succeed in a changing market. His company has partnered with Keith Ferrazzi, CEO of Ferrazzi Greenlight, a sales and marketing consulting firm, to educate its agents in this area.

Real Living isn't the only bro-

kerage educating its agents about the changing market.

"We recognized last fall that the market was more balanced, so we developed some in-branch training particularly for new agents to help bring them up to speed on what new market conditions are like," said Sherry Chris, chief operating officer of Prudential California, Nevada and Texas Realty.

Sherry Chris, Prudential California, Nevada, Texas

"One of the things we taught them was to keep in mind that listings are going to last on the market longer," Chris said. "In a brisk market where listings were lasting only a matter of hours, they now could be 13, 16, 90 days, and they have to be marketed differently."

Marketing a listing over an extended amount of time involves networking with different agents, putting many photos of the listing

on the MLS and on the agent's company Web site and managing the open house process "so you are rotating your listings," the COO said.

Managing the advertising process is also critical, Chris said. Touching on the shift from print media to online media, the COO said, "There are reasons for doing that. One is the longer shelf life of the actual ad. Online, it's on there until it sells."

The online advertising challenge, Chris said, is driving traffic to the actual listing.

"We're exploring with a number of companies, HomeGain being one of them, on lead generation

and how we drive traffic to our site and our listings," Chris said.

Like Chris, Souza of the Bay East Association of Realtors is beefing up advertising spend. He will devote 40 percent to 50 percent of ad spend to the Internet, he said. In addition to Realtor.com, Souza plans to invest money in search engine optimization for his Web site to make sure it shows up high on the list of search results.

But Souza doesn't depend on the Internet alone. He sends out a monthly newsletter, both via e-mail and in hardcopy. Indeed, Michael J., a Richmond, Calif., Realtor who goes by his last initial, said his monthly hardcopy newsletter, which

has been in existence for 10 years, nets the lion's share of his business if not all of it.

With all the talk about technology, Chris said, "When we are asked what is the most important part of the real estate industry, they always say it's the relationship between the agent and the client. We train the agents in touch via telephone as not just technology. There is that balance."

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ON B18.

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**A sampling of our current listings:**

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	<b>San Francisco -- Mission</b> Beautiful 3-unit Edwardian. 2 2bd units, wonderfully updated 3bd top floor unit with views to Twin Peaks. Ideal investment or as TICs (two units vacant at COE). \$1,795,000
	<b>PAI Valley</b> Charming 4 bd, 1 ba home in popular Sycamore Park close to schools, rec center, downtown & more. Refinished floors and new paint inside and outside facade. Use as is or bring your imagination. There's lots of potential. \$950,000

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## Reid

FROM PAGE B3

Many cities conduct programs for first time homebuyers. Down payment and closing cost assistance is possible as long as funds are available. To find out what your city offers check with your nearest Realtor.

Time is here. The self-employed and independent contractor can learn how to take every business deduction, reduce your chance of audit and use new tax laws to save taxes. Attend "Basic Tax and Record Keeping Information for Self-Employed People", in Oakland. The class is taught by tax professional Jan Zoller, EA. For the next date call 415-221-1015.

## NO SPEAK

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter and the Oakland Association of Realtors present "The Art and Science of Professional Speaking" with Eddie Snow, Dale Carnegie trainer. Learn how to speak professionally one on one or to an audience. The seminar is 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, April 21, at the OAR Mary Williams Walton Auditorium. There is no cost to members but you must RSVP at [www.oar.org](http://www.oar.org).

## TECH FAIRE

Tech Faire 2006 is coming soon. Mark your calendars for this annual event, now in its seventh year. Join four Alameda County real estate associations for classes and a trade show. It is scheduled for Friday, April 28 in Oakland. Watch this column for more details.

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter monthly Business Resource Breakfast Series is Thursday, April 20. The meeting be-

gins with networking at 8:30 a.m. The location is Buttercup Kitchen, on Broadway in Oakland. For ticket reservations call WCR president Felicia Favroth of Classic Investments at 510-967-6661 or Felicia1@aol.com.

## DYNAMIC

The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB) presents "The Dynamic Networking Breakfast", from 8 to 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 19. Join Realtists at Jimmie's Entertainment Complex on San Pablo, in Oakland. Agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. Wells Fargo sponsors the meeting. For more information call Tyrone Cossey of First American Title at 510-393-2116.

## STAGING

Statistics show that staged homes sell quicker and often command more dollars. Accredited stager Lavon Martel of Open House Staging & Organizing (OHSO) helps Realtors and home sellers transform ordinary listings into model homes. Get an estimate by calling OHSO at 925-383-0947.

## SAFETY

Here's an idea for your office or a client gift. Choose an Earthquake Preparedness Kit from local company, Early Bird Safety. Free delivery is offered to Oakland and Berkeley real estate offices. Order information is at [www.earlybird-safety.com](http://www.earlybird-safety.com).

## TRAINING

Level3 Performance Training promises less prospecting and more sales. Become a top producer. Level3 invites Realtors to attend a no cost, no obligation program orientation. Training for entire offices is available. Call Eric Eng at 510-376-8719.

## BOBBIE HEARS

Kim Cleghorn, president of the Oakland Association of Realtors

announced the winner of a recent OAR drawing. Poppy Nguyen of Mekong Realty is the proud owner of a new laptop computer. Wow! You are the lucky one, Poppy.

Ira Serkes of RE/Max Executive was a key speaker at the National Association of Realtors (NAR) annual leadership retreat. Serkes described how he and his wife, Carol use their "High Touch Through High Tech" systems. He also offered suggestions for NAR members on to better serve the public.

## LET'S TALK?

Tell me about it! Real estate related fundraisers, meetings, workshops, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). Information deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an email to [bobbierid@mindspring.com](mailto:bobbierid@mindspring.com).

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Classic pony rocker  
always stylish

Like teddy bears and red wagons, traditional rocking horses never go out of style. Even with competition from an amazing array of electronic toys, games and gizmos, these classic toys remain just as popular today as they were a century ago.

## U-BILD

When you handcraft it yourself, a rocking horse becomes more than a classic—it becomes a heirloom that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

This sturdy do-it-yourself version features a limited rocking motion and rounded edges for safety. Wood dowels are used for the handgrips and stirrups, and for the mane and tail and scrap leather for the ears.

Full-size patterns and straightforward construction techniques make the project easy for any woodworker, even beginners. To build, just trace the pieces onto 1/2-by-12 and 1-by-12 pine and fir lumber (other woods will work) and cut them out. Next, sand everything and assemble using screws, dowels and glue. Finally,

finish the project clear or paint as preferred and attach the mane, tail and ears.

The completed rocking horse measures 44 inches long by 25 inches tall.

The Pony Rocker plan, No. 738, is \$9.95 and includes step-by-step directions with photos, full-size traceable patterns, construction diagrams, a materials list and cutting layout and a toll-free help line for project questions.

A package of four kids' rocker plans, No. C73, is \$24.95 and includes this rocking horse and another one, plus a rocking dinosaur and a rocking airplane. A catalog picturing hundreds of do-it-yourself projects is \$2. Please include \$3 for postage and handling (except catalog-only orders) and allow about two weeks for delivery.

To order by mail, clip this article and send it with a check or money order to U-Bild Features, c/o Hills Newspapers, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409. To order by credit card, call 1-800-828-2453. Visit U-Bild on the Web at [u-bild.com](http://u-bild.com).

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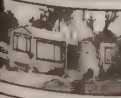
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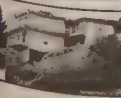
John Chang  
Realtor



2101 SHORELINE DR., #290, ALAMEDA  
2 BD/1.5 BA, 1110 sq. ft. Two-story bay view townhouse w/ new Italian tile floor, wood-burning fireplace in living room & new carpet in the master BD. Refrigerator, stove, microwave are new. Walk-in Shower & new large capacity washer and dryer. \$548,000



3906 EDWARDS AVE., OAKLAND  
Single-family house, 3 BD & 2 BA, 1,496 sq. ft. Well maintained family home in a good location. Pergo hardwood floor & see through fireplace. Somewhat updated in kitchen & bath. 3 yr old roof, separate cottage in a big back yard. Open Sun 1-4 \$565,000



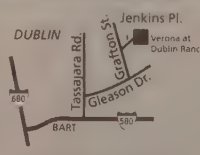
145 LAWSON RD., KENSINGTON  
Single-family house, 4 BD & 4 BA, 3,908 sq. ft. Unique custom house w/ Panoramic S. F. bay view from decks and living area. Fresh paint, new wall-to-wall carpets & dual pane windows, gourmet eat-in kitchen opens to backyard w/ 4-person spa & garden area. Large living area w/ master suite & large walk-in closets. \$1,469,000

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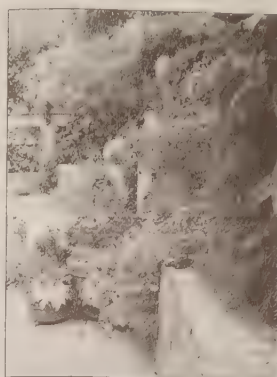
# Tour the Secret Gardens of the East Bay

**PARK DAY SCHOOL**  
Park Day School will hold its annual Secret Gardens of the East Bay tour on Sunday, April 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tour features a collection of 13 stunning, carefully landscaped gardens in Berkeley, Oakland, Piedmont and Emeryville. Some of the highlights of this year's tour include:  
A perfume maker's garden, led by perfumier Laurie and landscaper Gary. The garden - Stern's laboratory - is a heady blend of fragrant roses, lavender, jasmine,

daphne, and citrus and many other tools of the perfumer's trade. Stern will be making perfume in her garden the day of the tour, and they will be available for sampling and purchase.  
A modest, West-Berkeley lot transformed into a horticultural haven by Kevin Farlay, who studied with Roger Raiche of Planet Horticulture, and Farlay's wife, Alex Hozven, who makes organic sauerkraut for sale at the Berkeley Farmers Market (among other venues). The garden is a plant lover's dream, featuring many uncommon, hard-

to-find dwarf, trees, vines, and varieties of bamboos and succulents. A feast for the eyes, Lee Meltzer glass art is placed throughout the garden.  
A modern garden design in Albany created by David Felix illustrates the dramatic impact that can be created through geometry, textural variety and lush color. The garden was conceived in concert with the owner-designed house, and the marriage is an exquisite tribute to modern architecture and landscape.

See TOUR, Page B8



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**Musil**  
PAGE B6  
Or, take them off title? If so, I stopped paying my loan. I would lose my property. You need to get an attorney to court and ask to allocate interest in the property based upon partnership agreement. This determination will allow you to unravel the and/or sell the property. You should perform two calculations. First, what is the ownership interest of each party, and if the defendant parties want to pay their share payments and penalties, how much would they owe?  
My wife and I recently bought a home. We were told a survey was required so we assumed that property description given to us by Coldwell Banker was correct. A description on both the real estate papers and the papers at the time described the property as being 117 feet.

Two months later, in the course of the neighbor planning a fence we found the property lines to actually be 60 feet by 117 feet, a total of 1,755-square-foot difference. I verified this through the St. Clair county records. Property in this area is going for anywhere between 7 and 10 dollars a square foot.  
After further investigation I discovered that several months before, the builder was required to move the shed because it encroached on the neighbor's property. Hence, I find it hard to believe he was unaware of the discrepancy. I have contacted all parties involved several times and no one will return my call. My question is who is responsible for the fraudulent information and what are my options?  
A. The builder and the builder's agent had a clear duty to accurately describe and represent the size of the property. Previous problems with an existing shed provide proof that the lot lines were confusing. A court or an arbitrator will rule

in your favor. Often, new home purchase agreements include warranties and arbitration clauses that require that claims be brought forward within certain timelines. You should immediately review your purchase documents and contact an attorney to determine your next step.  
Dr. Thomas Musil is the director of the Shenon Center for Real Estate in the College of Business at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. He has over 25 years of experience in real estate as a broker, analyst, consultant and expert witness in real estate litigation and arbitration disputes. E-mail questions to: [tmusil@stthomas.edu](mailto:tmusil@stthomas.edu). Please include your name, city and state.

**DON'T MISS THE WEEKLY SALES IN THE AUTO SECTION ON D5.**

## shown by appointment

This bright and open traditional has been beautifully updated throughout and offers exceptionally large gardens with level lawns. There are four bedrooms, four and one half baths, den, large family room, formal dining room and two-car garage with interior access. A rare and very special home!



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## OAKLAND, BERKELEY & KENSINGTON - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



**50 KNOLL RIDGE WAY** \$1,895,000  
Oakland. One of a kind settings overlooking the park w/panoramic views. Spacious home w/dramatic formal rooms & family room. Mary Merrick



**1037 AQUARIUS WAY** \$1,350,000  
Oakland. Dramatic ultra-modern nestled in the hills. Pure clean architecture in gorgeous setting. Level lawn, spa & serene views. Jill Carrigan



**224 WILLAMETTE AVENUE** \$775,000  
KENSINGTON. Delightful mid-century w/dazzling Bay views! Impeccably maintained 3BR/2BA w/ great room, sunroom & family room! The Ratcliffes



**984 LONGRIDGE ROAD** \$1,750,000  
Oakland. Completely renovated 4+BR/3.5BA w/ exceptional in-law/au pair. Kitchen opens to family room. Master w/jacuzzi tub. Anthony Riggins



**5249 COCHRANE AVE.** \$1,225,000  
Oakland. Custom craftsman shingle by Jarvis Architects. Exquisite kitchen/family room. Beautiful woodwork, built-in hutches & bookshelves. Wisteria covered trellis & level garden. Ed Kuo



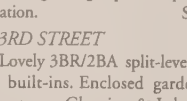
**2474 MLK JR. WAY** \$459,000  
BERKELEY. Stunning architecturally distinguished 'green' condo built in 2003! Gated, 2-story unit w/ 2BR suites, soaring ceilings, open floorplan & terrace. Central location. Susie Schevill



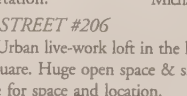
**6201 VIRGO ROAD** \$1,695,000  
Oakland. Stylish award winning design contemporary w/Bay & bridge views! 4BR incl. master suite w/fireplace, 3/5BA. Great outdoor living w/deck & level lawn. Angela Wei Grubb



**1069 TRESTLE GLEN ROAD** \$839,000  
Oakland. Traditional 3BR Crocker Highlands English. Graceful arches & elegant fireplace, formal dining room & French doors to patio. Judith Cain



**1250 E. 33RD STREET** \$519,000  
Oakland. Lovely 3BR/2BA split-level Craftsman w/original built-ins. Enclosed garden. Garage. Friendly street near Glenview & Lakeshore, parks & transportation. Michael Friedman



**247 4TH STREET #206** \$425,000  
Oakland. Urban live-work loft in the heart of Jack London Square. Huge open space & sleeping loft. Great value for space and location. Ed Kuo

## SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT

**PIEDMONT ESTATE** \$7,850,000  
Graciously restored exquisite Albert Farr estate w/ 6BR/5+BA, beautiful gardens. Mindy Scott  
**PIEDMONT ELEGANCE** \$6,500,000  
Elegant Miller-Warnecke Tudor Beautiful grounds. Gorgeous formal rooms, 5BR, library. Mindy Scott  
**PIEDMONT JEWEL** \$3,595,000  
Gracious 4BR/4BA Mediterranean on nearly one acre of beautiful gardens. Pool. Anian Pettit Tunney  
**PIEDMONT CLASSIC** \$2,680,000  
Beautifully updated traditional w/large level gardens! 4BR/4.5BA, den & family room. Bebe McRae  
**BERKELEY MEDITERRANEAN** \$2,500,000  
Elegant Mediterranean Adjoining private park w/ pool & tennis. 5BR/5.5BA. Bebe McRae  
**PIEDMONT MEDITERRANEAN** \$2,195,000  
Redesigned Mediterranean. 4BR/4.5BA w/au pair suite. Stunning details & gourmet kitchen. Kurt Buchholz

**CLAREMONT PINES** \$2,150,000  
Dramatic & sophisticated w/enchanting formal rooms, gourmet kitchen. Pool. Debbi DiMaggio  
**BERKELEY HILLS** \$1,695,000  
New construction w/Bay views. Luxurious master suite +3 additional BR. Sunny gardens! Bebe McRae  
**OAKLAND HILLS** \$1,395,000  
Exciting 4+BR/3BA contemporary. Gorgeous kitchen, stunning views & office! Dana Cohen  
**CLAREMONT PINES** \$1,385,000  
Contemporary 3BR/2+BA w/stunning Bay views. Sunny central garden. Elizabeth Dickson  
**MONTCLAIR BEAUTY** \$1,350,000  
Beautiful Jarvis-designed traditional w/4BR/2.5BA, kitchen/family room open to patio. Bebe McRae  
**MONTCLAIR (PIED. SIDE)** \$1,250,000  
Chic 4BR/3BA contemporary. Recently reinvented w/granite counters, garden & view. Debra Dryden

**PIEDMONT TRADITIONAL** \$1,250,000  
Enchanting 3+ BR/2BA. Elegant formal rooms & cheery eat-in kitchen. Linda McClain  
**GLENVIEW CLASSIC!** \$750,000  
Spacious Prairie style w/au pair unit! 3BR/2BA, family room & formal dining room. Bebe McRae  
**MONTCLAIR COTTAGE** \$579,000  
Adorable 2BR/1BA Montclair cottage w/updated kitchen & terraced gardens. Dana Cohen  
**BERKELEY SPANISH** \$1,195,000  
Spectacular Bay view. 3BR/4BR. Grand living room. In-law, wine room & family room. Ruth Frassetto  
**EL CERRITO SPANISH** \$875,000  
Updated Spanish style home, updated throughout. Beautiful view of S.F. Bay. Ruth Frassetto  
**EL CERRITO HILLS** \$710,000  
Captivating S.F. views. 3BR/1.5BA w/bonus family room, dark room & mature garden. Ruth Frassetto

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## Tour

FROM PAGE B7

■ A glassmaker's studio garden includes a tour of the glassblowers' facility. Here, Cohn-Stone Studios offers a contrast in experience: the hot ovens where the glass is blown to the cooling shade of a lovely garden replete with the glasswork created at the site.

■ A modern garden design in Albany created by David Feix, which illustrates the dramatic impact that can be created through geometry, textural variety and lush color. The garden was conceived in concert with the house, which the owner designed. The result is not a typical Albany house and garden.

As visitors tour these striking outdoor spaces, they will be able to meet and talk with many of the noted designers who created them. The artists include Rachel Evnine, David Feix, as well as talented designers from Feyerband and Madden.

Tickets for the tour are \$45 per person and include a collectible catalog with detailed descriptions of each garden, a map, and directions for the self-guided tour.

Ticketed visitors can also attend lunchtime lectures by garden-design experts on the beautifully landscaped grounds of Park Day School.

Gourmet box lunches are available and must be pre-ordered for \$13 each. The school will also host a marketplace, offering rare plants, fine foods, garden-related wares and the opportunity, once again, to visit with professional garden designers.

Proceeds from the tour and the marketplace are critical to the scholarship and academic programs of Park Day School, an independent K-8 school. Park Day School is located at 370-43rd Street in Oakland.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, please call the Garden Tour at 510-653-0317 ext. 103 or visit our website at [www.SecretGardenTour.org](http://www.SecretGardenTour.org).

## Is it time to fix that ARM?

It seems every newspaper we've picked up lately has been lamenting that the evil mortgage lenders have hoodwinked the American public again. Thousands and thousands of unsuspecting homeowners are on the verge of losing their homes due to the rapidly rising rates of their adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs), not to mention that the real estate bubble is about to burst and homes will not be worth their mortgages.

We believe that with the exception of a few terrible incidents, these predictions are basically unfounded, especially in California.

The mortgage borrowers here in California are some of the most sophisticated and informed consumers in the country. They are buying some of the most expensive real estate in the country as well. In general, they do not step into a situation blindfolded and are well counseled as to just how their ARM is going to affect them.

It seems every newspaper we've picked up lately has been lamenting that the evil mortgage lenders have hoodwinked the American public again.

But, the attacks on mortgage loan products continue and are specifically focused on three types of ARM's: The six- and 12-month ARM; the short-term fixed interest only ARM; and the option ARM with potential negative amortization.

Personally, we're not big fans of the very short-term ARM's like the six- and 12-month. The rates are usually tied to the LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) index, which can move as quickly as our (U.S.) Fed funds rate and our prime rate. After six or twelve months their can be an adjustment as high as two points over the start rate or the fully indexed rate, which ever is less.

So, if a borrower starts with 5.25 percent, after 12 months it could jump as high as 7.25 percent. Currently, the 12-month LIBOR index is about 5.29 percent. The margin of 2.25 is added to the index for a fully indexed rate of 7.54 percent.

If in 12 months economics stayed the same the rate cap of 7.25 percent would prevail. But, it is still 2 points higher than the start rate. For a \$400,000 loan the payment difference is between a \$2,209 payment and a \$2,729 payment per month. That's an increase of \$520 per month.

The minimum short-term fixed-rate that we like to work with is usu-



KAREN SENZIG  
Mortgage Madess

ally five years. Better still, seven- or 10-year short-term rate loan. The majority of short-term fixed-rate loans suit the needs for those who know that their lives are changing in that time period. Seven years, the kids will be in college and they may be doing-or the corporate executive knows he will be transferring the area in three to five years. But the real debate for the term fixed-rate mortgage whether or not it has an only option. The interest rate can be a fine cash flow allows the borrowers to pay down their mortgage own choosing. Critics claim

See SENZIG, Page B

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by appointment

Adjoining a private park with pool & tennis court, this elegant Mediterranean enjoys Bay views & grand architecture! Five bedrooms, four and one half baths, formal dining room, family room & level entry from a private drive!

Offered at \$2,500,000



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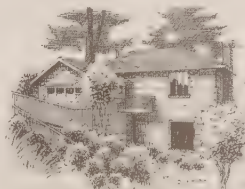
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Located in a quiet Montclair neighborhood this 11 year old home blends an open flowing design with formal rooms, large windows, craftsman details, hardwood floors and a flexible floor plan. The spacious kitchen/family room opens to the patio, garden, level grass area and tree studded hillside. Approx 2950 Sq ft of living space that includes 3 BR 3.5 BA and Rumpus room. Excellent storage and a 4 Car Garage!



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Custom built by the seller in 1966, this home, in the Joaquin Miller area, has been well loved by its owner. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, a 3 car tandem garage, huge finished basement, partial bay window and a large level yard are a rare find in the hills. Meticulously maintained, the property has a control clearance. The cul-de-sac location is close to parks, freeways and Montclair Village.

Donna Costella

510.338.1355

[dcostella@pacunion.com](mailto:dcostella@pacunion.com)

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# Updating those older cabinets

By ALAN HEAVENS  
CORRESPONDENT

We have an older home in need of some repairs, mainly on the kitchen cupboards. They need updating — color or some. The cupboards have wood grain and the drawers have plastic. I'm afraid to paint them and the drawers or make worse. Replacing them is not an option. Any suggestions? On different paints, one for wood and one for plastic, and, I hope, a primer so the new finish will last. Krylon has a paint prod-

uct available in home centers that is designed for plastic and comes in 16 colors.

Painting the wood fronts will be easier. Remove the doors from the cabinets, then remove all the hardware. Wipe all surfaces with a clean rag saturated with mineral spirits (paint thinner) to remove surface contamination. You may have to do this twice or more because older cabinets typically have a heavy buildup of dirt, grease or grime, and wax. Change the rags frequently to avoid re-depositing the dirt and grease.

Wash the surface with equal parts household ammonia and water. Rinse well with clean water. Al-



ALAN HEAVENS  
Real Estate G & A

low the surface to dry completely. Then prime it with a shellac-based primer-sealer. Let it dry for about an hour.

Finish coats should be an oil-based paint (alkyd enamel) for a more stain-resistant, washable and

See HEAVENS, Page B11

enzig

amortization (paying down part of the principal with each payment) is an essential part of the mortgage experience. Successful borrowers with an income loan are paying down principal on track with a 15-year mortgage, as their cash flow is better. Others, who do not subscribe to the real estate bubble believe that the bit of normal amortization will cover their lack of payments to the principal. One of the things told us that it was like rent on your mortgage with no equity.

loan product that is really a bad news list is the option to refinance the loan with the four payments each month. The first month the minimum payment option is one that the critics are concerned about.

say our borrower chooses a 1000 loan with a 1.00 percent minimum payment rate. The balance on his property is about

\$875,000 (making this an 80 percent loan to value). The minimum payment is \$2,252 per month for the first year.

That minimum payment will increase by 7.50 percent the second year to \$2,430, the third year to \$2,602, the fourth year to \$2,797 and the fifth year to \$3,007; certainly a gradual and affordable anticipated mortgage payment increase.

The problem is that the minimum payment is a less than interest only payment. The difference between the fully indexed interest only payment (payment option number two) and the minimum payment is added to the principal each month that the minimum payment is made.

If the fully indexed rate is 6 percent and that interest-only payment on \$700,000 loan is \$3,500 per month, about \$1,248 per month is added to the principal each month in the first year, or about \$14,976 in the first year. Although payments are still based on the original loan amount, once the principal balance reaches 115 percent of the original balance, (\$805,000), the lender will

recast the loan for the balance of the term.

If the borrower continues to use the minimum payment and the underlying fully indexed rate continues to rise, it would take about seven to ten years before the lender recasts the note, amortized over 23 to 20 years. It is still an ARM, but the amortization is shorter and the only option is fully amortized at the fully indexed rate. Usually, at this point, most borrowers who are going to keep the property will refinance into a more affordable loan product.

The bottom line is that, while ARMs are a great way to get into property, there does come a time as interest rates are on the rise, but still at historical lows, when the piece of mind of a long term fixed rate mortgage is more comforting than the gamble of the adjustable rate mortgage.

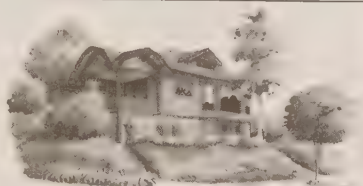
Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511 or e-mailed at Ksenzig@aol.com.

old sold

New owners will enjoy one level living in this perfect Piedmont shingle (c. 1908). The home has been charmingly updated with box beam ceilings, leaded windows, 3 bedrooms and two bathrooms. Surrounded by lovely gardens and patios. Originally offered at \$1,100,000

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46 Monticello Avenue  
Piedmont

ELIZABETH DICKSON  
Represented the seller  
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Dian Hymer represented the buyer of this 3+ bedroom, 2+ bath Piedmont home. Dian has been representing home buyers and sellers in the area for 29 years. Give Dian a call if you're looking for an agent with experience, integrity, diligence and professionalism.

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## COMING SOON



CROCKER HIGHLANDS

Glimpse San Francisco bridges from the Master Bedroom deck overlooking a large, level backyard. Extensive updates consistent with the Craftsman-style of this 5 bedroom home include custom wood windows and a gourmet kitchen with Viking Range. Other amenities: hardwood floors, updated bathrooms, and a two car garage with interior access. Call me for details!



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# An innovative approach to lattice

Homeowners who want to enhance the appearance and curb appeal of a home often look to lattice.

Lattice is an inexpensive product that adds style and privacy to outdoor projects without blocking airflow or creating confined spaces. The problem with traditional wooden lattice is its tendency to split, rot and discolor.

A decorative plastic lattice may change all that. Called Severe Weather, it offers the attractiveness of three-dimensional wooden lattice with none of the maintenance.

This lattice is manufactured using a one-piece injection molding process that ensures the product will never split or separate. It is available in four designs: Traditional Diamond, Privacy Diamond, Privacy Square and 3-D Architectural. To match almost any decor theme, this decorative lattice also comes in different colors, such as white, dark green, cedar, redwood and clay.

Because the color goes all the way through, the lattice is manufactured to resist scratches and fading in the sun. The 4' x 8' sections are easy to handle, screw or nail, and can be easily cut to fit any design project.

Matching cap and divider moldings enhance the appearance of installed lattice. An installation must be to drill oversized holes to allow for thermal expansion and contraction. Never overtighten screws.

"We designed Severe Weather decorative lattice to be attractive and easy to work with," said Dick Cantley, president of GeoMatrix. "And, like all our products, it's manufactured to provide a lifetime of function and beauty with no maintenance."

Available at Lowe's, the lattice can be used in a variety of outdoor design applications. As a garden arbor or trellis, plastic lattice provides the perfect environment for climbing vines. It can also be used as a semiprivate partition for hot tubs, porches and patios, or as skirting for decks and crawl spaces. It can even be used for indoor craft projects.

Severe Weather products are backed by a limited lifetime warranty. They're designed to bring durability and charm to outdoor decorating and offer do-it-yourselfers the products and resources to beautify their homes at a fraction of the cost and time.



AS A GARDEN ARBOR OR TRELLIS, plastic lattice can provide privacy as well as support for climbing vines.

## How can condo owner get out of a bad deal?

BY ROBERT BRUSS  
INMAN NEWS FEATURES

Dear Bob: I made a bad mistake buying a studio condominium. Now I realize there is little demand in my community from buyers who want to purchase a studio condo. The reasons I want to sell are (1) noise from the upstairs and downstairs neighbors, and (2) I need more space. I have listed my studio condo for sale with two different Realtors on 90-day listings each. Neither brought me any offers. How can I get out of my bad deal for which I stupidly paid a \$40,000 cash down payment?

Dear Brad: Except in major cities where space is at a premium, there should be a law prohibiting small studio condominiums, especially in poorly soundproofed buildings like yours. Even one-bedroom condos can be difficult to resell in many markets.

The fact you have \$40,000 cash tied up in your condo is disconcerting. I presume you need that money to buy a nicer condo or house.

Most communities have condo specialist realty agents who sell the most condos. Find out who those specialists are in your area and seek their advice. One way or another, you can sell your studio condo, but



ROBERT BRUSS

you might have to offer especially attractive terms.—Bob W.

Dear Bob: How many times each year can I "roll over" my capital gains with a tax-deferred Internal Revenue

See BRUSS, Page B11

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OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A dramatic ultra-modern nestled in the Montclair hills. Pure, clean architecture in a beautiful serene setting. This exceptional home also features a level lawn and gardens with a spa, perfect for entertaining!

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Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm-9:00pm  
Oakland Association of Realtors - 1528 Webster Street, Oakland



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Tom Roberts, MBA  
Residential Pacific Mortgage



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  - Qualification, down payment, loan programs, interest rates
- How to sell your real estate investment and defer the capital gains taxes - 1031 exchange

We will take the confusion out of real estate investing by giving you the knowledge and confidence to find the right property, finance it, and exchange it in the future without paying capital gains taxes.

To Register: Email your name, phone number and possible interest at [apirson@yahoo.com](mailto:apirson@yahoo.com)  
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## South Side

## Coming Soon - Berkeley South Side Lofts

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South Side Lofts is a stunning new development in Berkeley. The property consists of 10 for sale loft style condominiums with a variety of two-level floor plans and dynamic architectural features such as a large mezzanine, high ceilings, saw tooth roofs, and open floor plans. These units feature designer kitchens with granite counters, stainless steel appliances, expansive windows, bathrooms with marble counters, and oversized bathtubs with marble surrounds. Located along the vibrant Telegraph Avenue Corridor in Berkeley's Elmwood Neighborhood, South Side Lofts is close to U.C. Berkeley, Whole Foods Market and the Rockridge shopping district. With a great Central Bay Area location, South Side Lofts offers access to a wide array of activities, transportation and destinations.



# Arbor adds charm and style to your yard

This is the time of year that gardeners love. Seed and plant catalogs have arrived, and chilly winter nights can be spent planning what your yard and garden will look like this spring and summer. Don't forget to include plans for hardscaping, the non-plant accents that give your yard backbone.

The latest trend in landscaping is to create "outdoor rooms," areas set off by various design elements that provide a place to entertain, or a place to sit and enjoy the garden," says Ken Machan, co-founder and president of New England Arbors, a company that specializes in beautiful arbors. "Landscaping not only increases your enjoyment of your outdoor spaces, but it can add as much as 15 percent to the resale value of your property."

The easiest way to achieve the effect of strolling from one outdoor room to another is with additions like arbors, benches and trellises. They not only help define the space, but also add a distinct design element to the yard. Some arbors can even be wired for lighting and sound to add even more personality to the landscape.

"Arbors help create traffic patterns by leading people to features like a footpath or a comfortable bench. They're also perfect for establishing a grand entryway to your yard, with or without a surrounding fence," says Machan. A well-placed arbor is also a perfect anchor for climbing plants of all kinds, from flowering vines to roses.

Creating outdoor rooms allows you to use more of your yard, expanding your outdoor space beyond your deck or patio into the surrounding area. When creating your outdoor rooms, be sure to consider the architecture of your home, especially when choosing hardscape elements. For example, for a cottage-style home, a flagstone patio would look more natural than a formal herringbone brick patio.

The same holds true with arbors. If you have a traditional-style home, like a colonial, then choose an arbor with classic lines. If you live in a gingerbread Victorian, you can use a more ornate arbor. New England Arbors offers models to suit all architectural styles, from the stately Yorkshire to the traditional Nantucket to the more ornate Brookfield. All are designed with fine architectural detail to enhance the beauty of your home and garden.

Choose an arbor that is low maintenance and that will look great year after year. Thanks to the use of premium weather-proof vinyl materials, New England Arbors have the look of freshly painted wood without the worry or hassle. "Our arbors replicate the warmth and beauty of real wood, but they offer low maintenance and long-lasting durability," says Machan. "While wood can rot and warp, our arbors maintain their good looks year after year. They won't crack, rot or require painting — a promise we back up with a 20-year limited warranty."

To find out more visit [www.arbors34.com](http://www.arbors34.com) or call 866-325-1065.



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## Heavens

FROM PAGE B9

durable finish. Two coats should be enough, but the number of coats depends on the kind of look you want.

Q: In our bathroom, the hot water does not come out like it should; the cold water comes out fine. When you turn the knob toward the hot water, hardly any water comes out. Any idea why this might be happening?

A: I assume this is a single-lever faucet with a ball inside that controls the hot and cold water when you turn it. The mechanism may no longer be working properly, or the hot-water supply line could have become corroded.

Are you getting hot water in the kitchen or in the bathtub? If you are, that limits the problem to the bathroom sink. I'd be willing to bet on the faucet, rather than corrosion or water-heater problem.

Q: We have a 20-year-old house with brick on the front and aluminum siding elsewhere. I would like to replace the siding with brick. Is it possible to do this even though the original two-story structure wasn't designed for brick? In your opinion, would it be cost-prohibitive to do so?

A: Standard operating procedure for builders in the 1980s and 1990s was expensive brick on the front, cheaper aluminum and vinyl on the sides. You can replace the siding with brick, but I'd have a structural engineer look at the job before you begin tearing the siding off, just to see if the builder's work can accommodate the additional weight and, more important, to see if anything (such as water intrusion) was weakened what is likely a sound structure.

Bricks expensive and remains in short supply because production capacity has not kept up with demand, but may have to wait to get

Q: I have a problem with green moss growing on the north side of my roof. I put zinc strips down the ridge, but it has not killed the moss. What else can I do to get rid of it?

A: There's probably no permanent solution because it's the north-side roof and probably is under trees. But to ensure that your roof lasts, you'll need to go after that moss before it does any serious damage. A bristled scrub brush attached to a pole should do it. Push the brush down the slope of the roof to tear the moss roots free from the shingles (Brushing up damages shingles).

Zinc strips don't work with moss, the way. You may be thinking about algae — the best way to deal with this is by using copper strips. Algae looks ugly, but most experts don't believe it will seriously damage your roof — certainly not as much as moss, or trying to use bleach to clean it.

Q: We have a front-loading washing machine on the second floor; the dryer is stacked on top (a design flaw in a new house). The entire house shakes when the washer spins. I had a serviceman look at it, and he told me that front-loading washers do not belong on the second floor because of the powerful spinning that they should be on the ground floor and on cement, which they don't tell you when you're buying the washer. I would like to keep the washer upstairs if I could. Is there any way to support the floor, and do you think unstack-

ing it would make a big difference?

A: The problem likely isn't with your washer, but it might be with your builder if he was the one who offered a second-floor laundry room. A washer can spin at speeds of 700 to 1,600 r.p.m., and your second-floor joists obviously are unable to withstand the vibration. Consult a structural engineer to see whether the joists can be reinforced to withstand that vibration.

Have questions for Alan J. Heavens? You can e-mail him at [ahavens@phillynews.com](mailto:ahavens@phillynews.com) or write him at The Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101.

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## CROCKER HIGHLANDS



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"Thank you, Dolores, for the excellent service you provided as my real estate agent in the recent sale of my home. Clearly evident was your outstanding knowledge of the local market and your even temper and professionalism made it a pleasure to work with you. Under conditions of maximum stress (mine!) you remained calm, collected and confident."

Frances Johnston, Trestle Glen Road

"Dear Dolores, Thank you very much for an outstanding job handling the sale of our home. We both had an instant feeling of security after our first meeting with you. Your encyclopedic knowledge of Crocker Highlands was extremely important. But we are most impressed by your confidence and your calm demeanor when fear and doubt entered our psyche."

Jon & Faye Kim, Trestle Glen Road

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## Bruss

FROM PAGE B10

Code 1031 exchange? I am a real estate investor who "flips" several properties each year by purchasing at bargain prices, fixing up, and then profitably reselling without renting the property — Annette H.

Dear Annette: Internal Revenue Code 1031 contains no limit on the frequency of tax-deferred exchanges. Of course, all the properties must be held for investment or for use in a trade or business.

The big danger I see in your fre-

quent "flips" is the IRS might argue, upon audit, you are a real estate dealer rather than an investor. If you are classified as a dealer, then your profits are taxable as ordinary income. For more details, please consult your tax adviser.

The new Robert Bruss special report, "Everything Homeowners Need to Know About the \$250,000 and \$500,000 Home Sale Tax Exemption," is now available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at 800-736-1736 or instant Internet download at [www.bob-bruss.com](http://www.bob-bruss.com). Questions for this column are welcome at either address.

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#100 - On huge corner lot will be delivered vacant w/interior cosmetic work complete, including new interior paint. One unit has laminate, tile & lino. Floors. Other unit has carpet, tile & lino. Detached 2-car garage plus off-street parking. A bit of TLC will make this property stand out!

**\$518,000**

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**ONLY 2 LEFT!** **\$385,000-\$400,000**  
417 Evelyn Avenue. Spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos. Updated kitchen, granite countertops, new appliances, fireplaces, private balcony and 2 parking spaces in a Security Bldg. Walk to Albany Schools, BART and El Cerrito Plaza.  
**Carylon Dopp** (510) 701-7181

**EL CERRITO**

**STUNNING NEWER HOME IN MIRA VISTA** **\$950,000**  
4BR 2.5BA, over 2,500 sq. ft., stunning custom design, 2-car att. garage w/int. access, large modern kitchen, dual pane windows, master bedroom suite of your dreams, superb location. Don't miss! #40142369  
**Ed Shelton** (510) 662-8522

**RICHMOND VIEW**

**BEAUTIFUL BRAND NEW HOME!** **\$749,500**  
Great views from this wonderful 3 BR 2.5 BA home. Attached garage, granite countertops in kitchen and baths, double hung Anderson windows, hot water on demand, family room w/ fireplace, great curb appeal! #40149560  
**Paul Triplett** (510) 612-1823

**RICHMOND/EL SOBRANTE**

**GREAT HOME WITH POTENTIAL IN-LAW** **\$625,000**  
3040 Deseret 4BR 3BA home w/ gorgeous refinished hardwood floors, Master suite, updated kitchen, large park-like backyard, 2 car att. Garage w/int. access, Loads of storage.  
[www.geristem.com](http://www.geristem.com) (510) 662-8469

**RICHMOND MARINA**

**SUNSET POINT/GREAT NEWER HOME** **\$734,950**  
104 Waterview Dr. 3BR 3BA, approx. 1,675 sq. ft., kitchen with granite counters & tile floors, gleaming hardwood floors, 2 car att. garage, new carpets upstairs. Shows like a model!  
**Michele Manzone** (510) 662-8545



# Alain Pinel Realtors sponsoring Skyline High School event

**ALAIN PINEL**  
Alain Pinel Realtors is sponsoring Skyline High School Beautification Day on Saturday, April 29. As part of its sponsorship, the majority of the 19 real estate professionals from Alain Pinel in Montclair plan to volunteer in the one-day cleanup and landscape planting at the high school. It is the second annual Skyline Beautification Day to benefit the high school, which is one of six comprehensive public high schools in Oakland and serves 2,220 students from throughout the city.  
Skyline High School is in the Oakland Hills, near the company's Montclair office.  
Last year, and after years of budget cut-backs in Oakland's school districts, Skyline High's 45-acre campus was run-down and needed a thorough cleaning

This is such a good thing for the school and our community that it was very easy to rally our entire office around supporting the Skyline Beautification Day.

Kate Castle  
Alain Pinel Realtors

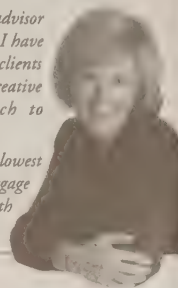
and landscape make-over. The Skyline Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) Beautification Committee was subsequently reactivated after many years of inactivity.  
The committee began work to renovate the grounds of the campus and help support the school's groundskeeper. More than 80 volunteers from school and community helped with gen-

eral cleanup, weeding and trimming, planting, repair of vandalized areas, power-washing and removal of debris. Teachers and students designed and built planter boxes for the portable classrooms. The cleanup was so successful that the PTSA decided to make it an annual event.  
Alain Pinel's Kate Castle is

See SKYLINE, Page B13

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APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup> 2-4PM  
Richmond Annex 2 bedroom, 1 bath home is absolutely adorable. Wide planked hardwood flooring & fresh warm paint colors are found through out. Living room provides built-in bookshelves & wood burning fireplace. Adjacent to the kitchen is an informal dining area with sliding glass doors that lead to a deck & backyard complete with a gazebo intertwined with jasmine. Spanish tiled kitchen floors give flare to this sun-lit eat-in kitchen. The beautifully remodeled bathroom boasts Mexican tiled floors, pedestal sink, modern light fixtures & a tile tub surround. Attached garage. Close to El Cerrito shops & BART.  
LISTED AT \$519,000  
**Saraya Motley, Realtor®**  
DIRECT: 510-280-2162 WEBSITE: www.eastbayhouse.com

★ ★ NEW PIEDMONT AVENUE LOFT LISTING! ★ ★  
★ ★ Open House - Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 1-4:00pm ★ ★  
2 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms  
3913 Cerrito Avenue  
Offered @ \$599,000  
An Amazing Loft/Townhome in An Amazing Neighborhood  
Find out why these unique urban loft/townhomes sold out in record time, just a few years ago. This stunning residence features 2 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, with 3 stories of incredible space and light. Built by a quality builder to exacting standards with extensive use of hardwoods, architectural metal work, natural stone, acid stained concrete, and museum quality wall finishes. Soaring 24 foot ceilings in the living room that is flooded with natural light, a deck, huge industrial windows open up vistas from every room, a spacious eat-in kitchen, and a private garage are just some of the components that make loft living here so great. Your new home is fully wired for cable, satellite, phone, and data. The master sleeping loft has a real sense of drama, overlooking the living area and the master bathroom is a work of art with a flamed granite tile floor and oversized oval tub. The eat-in kitchen is a dream for both the cooks and the helpers - featuring stainless steel appliances, tons of quality work space and generous amounts of cabinetry. The sleek black granite countertops compliment the unique cherry and maple cabinets creating a beautiful look. The second bedroom is what really sets this loft apart from it's competitors with a private outdoor garden and patio, ample storage, and acid washed concrete floors - it is just perfect for guests/ a home office/ or ??  
If you are looking for a real neighborhood then you are in luck. The neighbors at PiedmontAvenueLofts are friendly and connected. The local neighborhood is unparalleled in loft living in the East Bay. Piedmont Avenue is just 2 short blocks away and offers all the finest - Restaurants, shops, movies, cafes, book stores, and sunny places to walk, watch and work. Commuting is snap from here and of course there are gallons of coffee nearby!  
**Ron Kriss, Broker**  
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DIRECTIONS: From I-80, take I-580 west toward Point Richmond/San Rafael to Marina Bay Parkway/South 23rd Street exit; left onto Marina Bay Parkway and follow signs to sales information centers at Marina Bay, The Shores and The Cove.



# kyline

OM PAGE B3

heading the office's participation in this year's cleanup and

ing.  
This is such a good thing for school and our community. It was very easy to rally our office around supporting Skyline Beautification Day. Everyone knows the importance of the quality of the school and real estate, so it is a perfect fit for Realtors to jump in and help," said Castle. Kate Castle has been a Realtor for 14 years and works with her husband, Hal Castle, who has been a Realtor in the Montclair District for 33 years.

For 2006, the PTSA have already purchased plants and watering cans for the planter boxes, and more than 200 daffodils

donated through the Keep Oakland Beautiful program, arranged for additional trash receptacles to be placed both around the athletic field and successfully lobbied Waste Management to install larger receptacles on Skyline Boulevard. The organization also renovated a garden that was decimated by deer.

Area residents who wish to contribute to the Skyline High School Beautification program can do so. Checks should be made payable to: Skyline HS PTSA - Beautification Committee and mailed to Skyline High School 12250 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94619, to the attention of the PTSA Treasurer.

For information contact Kate Castle in the Montclair office of Alain Pinel by calling 510-899-8007 or kcastle@apr.com. The Alain Pinel Realtors' office is at 6116 La Salle Avenue on the second floor in Montclair Village.

This week's Open Home Guide can be found on B18.

## coming soon

This very special property located on a quiet cul-de-sac near Montclair Village is a rare find. A recent garden makeover by Landscape Smart for HDTV has created a back yard haven with an expansive grassy lawn, patio, decks, and play area all accessible from the lower level family room. An open floor plan on the main level creates a light airy feeling with glass doors to an elegant terrace/deck overlooking the garden. Lovely modern kitchen, updated baths, three+ bedrooms, two+ baths including a marvelous master suite and family room create an ideal floor plan for gracious living.

Price Upon Request



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**RICHMOND - NEW!** \$519,000  
2/1 - Charming bungalow. Fresh paint, hardwood floors, fireplace, built-in bookshelves, Spanish tile in kitchen, backyard, gazebo.  
5621 Burlingame Avenue Open 2-4



**OAKLAND - NEW!** \$439,000  
LOFT - Sunwashed with private garden, mezzanine, stainless steel kitchen, skylights, secure parking. [www.saragarabedian.com](http://www.saragarabedian.com)  
2323 Magnolia Street #1 Open 2-4



**OAKLAND - NEW!** \$499,000  
1+1/2 - Stunning designer warehouse loft with slate floors, fabulous mezzanine, masonry walls, skylights. [www.saragarabedian.com](http://www.saragarabedian.com)  
3015 Myrtle Street #19 Open 2-4



**OAKLAND - NEW!** \$499,000  
1+1/2 - 2-story industrial loft with volume & light has concrete & wood floors, 1,620 sq.ft., 2-car covered parking. [www.saragarabedian.com](http://www.saragarabedian.com)  
2323 Magnolia Street #9 Open 2-4



**OAKLAND** \$357,000-\$375,000 each  
6 LOFTS - In a very cool warehouse conversion with mezzanines, stained concrete, marble, skylights & more! [www.saragarabedian.com](http://www.saragarabedian.com)  
2201 West Street Open 2-4



**OAKLAND** \$379,000  
2/1 - Gourmet kitchen & incredible light in tastefully renovated 1920's condo. Hardwood floors, original moldings, deck, views, garage.  
594 55th Street Open 1-5



**OAKLAND** \$569,000  
LOFT - Very charming on Emeryville, border. Lower unit has box-beam ceilings, fireplace, updated kitchen & bath. Sunny cheerful upper unit.  
931 57th Street Open 2-4



**OAKLAND** \$315,000  
STUDIO - Jazzy studio in warehouse conversion has remodeled kitchen & bath. Masonry walls, polished concrete floors, secure parking.  
730 29th Street #109 Open 2-4

**BERKELEY** \$849,000  
3+1/3 - Newly renovated Mediterranean has it all! Living room with views of SF & Bay Bridge, formal dining room. Custom wine cellar. More!  
900 Cragmont Avenue Open 1-4

**BERKELEY** \$669,000  
3/2.5 - Contractor's dream! 2,300+ sq.ft., large living room with fireplace, dining room, huge deck, garage. [www.justsellmyhouse.com](http://www.justsellmyhouse.com)  
1060 Grizzly Peak Boulevard Open 2-4

by appointment

**ALBANY** \$630,000  
2/2 - Great location! Updated kitchen and bath, hardwood floors. Fully developed downstairs with den, bathroom & garage.

**BERKELEY** \$959,000  
2/1 - Striking Contemporary with panoramic Bay views. Cook's kitchen, family/media room, Japanese garden. [www.heidiandjerry.com](http://www.heidiandjerry.com)

**EMERYVILLE** \$265,000  
STUDIO - Updated studio in Watergate. Kitchen with tile floors, new granite counters & appliances. [www.katieandmark.com](http://www.katieandmark.com)

**SAN PABLO** \$499,000  
3/1 - Sun-filled & in great Tara Hills location, 1/2 block to Pinole. Large yard, deck, fireplace. [www.justsellmyhouse.com](http://www.justsellmyhouse.com)

**OAKLAND** \$899,000  
3/2 - Sunny, spacious Traditional with a twist! Fabulous new kitchen, open floor plan, large family room, large deck, yard.

**OAKLAND** \$629,000  
2/1 - Mediterranean charmer with hardwood floors, built-ins, fireplace, hot tub, new windows. Close to Piedmont Avenue shops.

**OAKLAND** \$1,250,000  
3/3 - Fantastic 2,400 sq.ft. complete remodel with high-end finishing touches in 2004. [www.charliecookproperties.com](http://www.charliecookproperties.com)

**OAKLAND** \$309,000  
1/1 - Remodeled condo! Serene, light with updated kitchen & bath, granite counters. Parking, deck, pool.

**RICHMOND** \$434,500  
2/1 - Immaculate! Upgraded kitchen with granite counters, new cabinets. Hardwood floors. Near Civic Center.

**RICHMOND** \$540,000  
3/2 - Bright and clean Hilltop home on a large parcel. Large family room addition, double garage and convenient location.

**RICHMOND** \$479,000  
2/2.5 - Sunny, cottage-style townhome in serene Bayside complex. New carpet, 2 master suites, 3 assigned parking spaces, more.

**RICHMOND** \$475,000  
2/2.5 - Cape Cod townhome has master suite upstairs. Next to marina & San Francisco Bay. [www.katieandmark.com](http://www.katieandmark.com)

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# The timeline of a home sale: What you should expect

## ■ Three tasks make up the home selling process

INMAN NEWS

Sellers often underestimate the time it will take to properly prepare their home for sale. For this reason, it's wise to start home sale preparations months before you actually want to put your home on the market.

For scheduling purposes, it helps to work backwards from the date that you'd ideally like to move. Let's say you want to be in a new home by June 1. There are three big tasks that need to be accomplished in order to make this happen.

One is preparing the home for sale. The second is marketing the home to find a buyer. And the third is to work through contract contingencies and close the sale.

Most homes benefit from decluttering, furniture rearranging, cleaning, painting and updating outdated floor coverings and light fixtures. These improvements cost relatively little and offer a good return on the investment.

You can sell a home in any condition; there is always a market for fixer-uppers. However, buyers pay more for homes they can move right into without having to do work. With more competition from other sellers who want to take advantage of a low-interest rate market, buyers will have the luxury of choice.

A good real estate agent can help you map out fix-up-for-sale projects. Your agent can also put you in touch with reliable inspectors, contractors and stagers to assist with these endeavors.

As soon as you figure out the scope of the work, you can schedule a marketing date. The next step is to figure out how long it will take to find a buyer.

Ask your real estate agent to provide you with the listing and pending sale dates for listings similar to your home that recently sold in your neighborhood. This information should be available through the Multiple Listing Service.

The time it takes to find a buyer can vary significantly from one area to the next. Be sure to use the most recent comparable sales information. The market is in flux. In general, it's taking longer for listings to go to pending now than it did a year ago.

The third element of the home sale process is closing the deal. You have some control over this. The closing date is negotiable.

When interest rates are rising, you could find buyers who want to close quickly in order to protect an interest rate commitment. Sellers often agree to cooperate with a fast sale in the interest of closing the sale. Sellers who aren't ready to move out by that date should ask the buyer for permission to rent back their home after closing. Although the closing date is negotiable, a typical closing date is 30 days from contract acceptance.

After collecting the above information, you're prepared to sched-

ule your sale. Let's say you estimate it will take 45 days to get your home ready to sell, 30 days to find a buyer and 30 days to close the deal.

This means you should start the prep work by Feb. 15 for an April 1 list date, a May 1 pending sale date and a June 1 closing. It's wise to build in a little wiggle room into your plan to account for unforeseen events.

Occasionally a home sale doesn't make it to closing. Often this is due to disputes over who pays for defects that arise during the buyer's inspections. This can set your schedule back while you find another buyer or work out the disputes.

**THE CLOSING:** You can minimize the risk of a deal falling apart by getting pre-sale inspections before you start the fix-up work. If money permits, it's wise to correct some de-

fects before marketing your home.

Dian Hymer is a Realtor, author and nationally syndicated columnist. She can be reached at 510-339-4777 or at [Dian@Dianhymer.com](mailto:Dian@Dianhymer.com).



**DIAN HYMER**  
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THIS NEWSPAPER.**

## coming soon

Elegance in Crocker Highlands! This beautifully updated vintage home offers tall ceilings and light filled rooms. The spacious, state-of-the-art kitchen opens to a deck and landscaped patio/garden. The romantic master suite adjoins an office and walk-in closet, and features a fabulous new bath with steam shower. Treat yourself to a very special home in Oakland's most popular neighborhood.



708 Longridge Road,  
Crocker Highlands

Offered at \$1,349,000

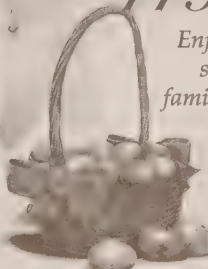
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## Happy Easter

Enjoy the Easter  
season with  
family and friends.



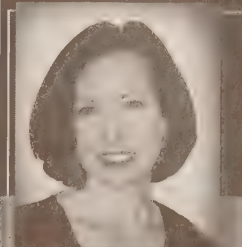
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14217 SEAGATE DRIVE  
"BB" Model. 3 bed, 2.5 bath Condo in Seagate w/1000 sq ft spa tennis courts, one block to L. Marina. \$539,000

**BRAND-NEW LISTING!**  
OPEN SAT & SUN 4/15 & 4/16 1-4PM  
14390 OUTRIGGER DR.  
Tastefully decorated! Very popular "CC" model at Marina Seagate 2 BD/2 BA, sep laundry rm, 2-one car garages. Asking \$450,000.

**COMING SOON:**  
1162 LOUISE STREET

#### OAKLAND BRAND-NEW LISTING FIRST TIME OPEN

SAT & SUN 4/15 & 4/16, 1-4PM  
989 FRANKLIN ST. #617  
Beautiful condo at the Franklin Bk. New, nice, cozy 2BD/2BA, balcony, rooftop garden, updated kitchen with granite counters. In-unit washer & dryer, valet parking. \$629,888

**OPEN SUNDAY 4/16, 1-4PM**  
3600 MAYBELLE AVE. UNIT #12  
2BD/1.5BA. Beautiful townhouse in quiet community, upgraded throughout. Kitchen w/maple cabinets and granite counters, new carpet and flooring. \$364,000

**COMING SOON:**  
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# House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first.

## shown by appointment

Beautiful Mark Becker design with Bay views and lovely gardens! Four bedrooms, three baths, kitchen/family room, exercise room and an attached garage! Close to Montclair shops and easy commute!

Offered at \$1,595,000



115 Taurus Avenue  
Montclair

BEBE McRAE  
Office: 510.652.2133/415  
bmcrac@grubbco.com

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## shown by appointment

Beautiful Jarvis designed traditional with enchanting outdoor spaces! Four bedrooms, two and one half baths Kitchen/family room opens to patio, garden and outdoor room with fireplace! Near Montclair Village.

Offered at \$1,350,000



1018 Mountain Boulevard  
Montclair

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New owners of this dramatic contemporary will enjoy unsurpassed panoramic San Geronimo & Golden Gate views from all floors. Four bedrooms, four baths with superb finishes throughout, gourmet kitchen, three fireplaces, family room, state-of-the-art media room, spacious terrace with view, guest suite & garden patio.  
Originally offered at \$2,500,000



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## The GRUBB Co.

**SOLD • SOLD • SOLD**  
A sophisticated modern classic with stunning renovation design by Richard Janzen with state-of-the-art finishes, flowing open floorplan, three bedrooms, three and one half baths.

Originally offered at \$1,435,000



55 S. Vasco Avenue, Piedmont



ANTHONY RIGGINS  
Represented the Buyer  
510.339.0400/282  
ariggins@grubbco.com

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JILL CARRIGAN  
Represented the Seller  
510.339.0400/328  
jcarrigan@grubbco.com

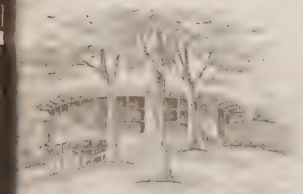


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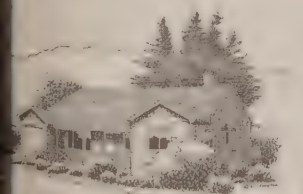
99 WOODVIEW DRIVE \$1,098,000  
Fayette. Price To Sell! Beautiful and serene two-story circular home sits on half acre with over 2,900 square foot of living space. Beamed ceilings, separate family room with three fireplaces. Award winning schools. Some tender loving care needed. Features at wellsandbennett.com. 4BD/3BA.  
Bonnie Leffmann 531-7000 x278



3373 BIRDSALL AVENUE \$469,000  
Maxwell Park. Light-filled two bedroom, one bath with character! Living room with valuated ceiling, large picture window with view, and fireplace, refinished hardwood floors, large updated eat-in kitchen with new flooring and greenhouse window, gorgeous tile bath, sunny level yard with patio, detached garage with automatic opener.  
Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228



27 ALLENDALE AVENUE \$639,000  
Maxwell Park. Fabulous Tudor with architectural detail and charm on great street! Spacious three bedroom, one and a half baths, living room with Mahogany trim, elegant fireplace and view, new gourmet kitchen with slate floor and cherry cabinets, great landscaped yard and Redwood deck, two-car garage, many upgrades!  
Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228



22 KNOLL AVENUE \$555,000  
Leona Heights. Sparkling three bedroom, two bath home in Leona Heights with updated kitchen and open floor plan has great separation of space. Get the best of both worlds with a rural feeling and quick freeway access.  
Open Sunday 1:30-3:00  
Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292

### COMING SOON



**LAUREL BUNGALOW**  
Laurel. Enjoy this two bedroom, one bath Laurel bungalow close to shopping, schools, transportation and easy freeway access. Original architectural detail, beautiful hardwood floors and tasteful upgrades! The potting shed, downstairs bonus area and spacious backyard are places to relax or play.  
Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292

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Tom Roberts, Branch Manager 531-7005

### BY APPOINTMENT

6833 MOORE DRIVE \$889,500  
Montclair. Double site lot of 12000+ sq. ft. Renovated in the 80's, this spacious home has 3BD/3BA, in-law/family room, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, two car garage, level yard area and additional deck area.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

**A PLACE TO CALL HOME** \$539,000  
Hayward. Don't miss this three bedroom, one bath totally remodeled home. Featuring large backyard with Jacuzzi tub. Updated everything. Close to elementary school and Mission Blvd.  
Teri L. Lester 531-7000 x262



**CHARMING VICTORIAN** \$499,000  
Oakland. Take a look at this! 3BD/2BA Victorian with original detail. Formal dining room, living room with wood burning fireplace, updated kitchen, master suite with deck, garage and full basement.  
Teri L. Lester 531-7000 x262

**ROSE GARDEN CONDO** \$490,000  
Oakland. Lovely condo located near Piedmont Avenue and Grand Avenue. Updated kitchen and 2BA. Recently painted and carpeted a few years back. Top floor unit with vinyl double pane windows.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

### INCOME PROPERTIES

**5 HOMES PLUS MOTEL** \$5,992,296  
Commercial property in Northern CA along I-5. Currently used for five residential & commercial properties. Excellent development for shopping center, mix-use, building.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

**CASH COW IN 5 APARTMENTS** \$1,950,000  
Oakland. Five bedroom, three bath owner's unit and four newer two bedroom, one bath apartments. Real money maker. Gross Income \$87,000/year.  
Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258

**LAKE MERRITT AREA** \$895,000  
Adams Point. Four Plex. Originally a grand four plus bedroom, four bath home. Tastefully converted many years ago. This building could possibly be converted back to a single family or duplex. At this price it rivals single home prices for the area.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

**FOURPLEX** \$829,000  
Oakland City Center. Downtown location with upstairs three bedroom, tow bedroom, two one bedroom apartments. Separately metered.  
Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258

**OAKLAND FOUR PLEX** \$825,000  
Downtown Oakland. Four units off Broadway. Currently vacant. Great local for law, medical, real estate, artist offices. Needs minor interior finishing work  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

### LAND FOR SALE

**GORGEOUS VIEWS ORINDA** \$1,600,000  
View of Contra Costa and San Francisco and Bay. Five plus acres. Unincorporated. Large level area. Zoned AZ-horses allowed.  
David Hennigan 531-7000 x229

**OAKLAND DEVELOPMENT** \$1,600,000  
Approximately 36,000 sq.ft. level lot. Located near High street and highway 880. Zoned for commercial, live-work, mfg. Reports available. Price below comparables.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

**CORNING, CA** \$1,594,296  
Three acre development property located in Corning, CA off I-5. Currently used as motel, but commercially zoned for many uses. Adjoining nine acres also available. Excellent locate for shopping center or big box comps.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

**MONTCLAIR LOT** \$600,000  
Four contiguous lots. All up slopes. May be sold individually for \$150K each. Utilities in street. Survey available. Won't last-hurry.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

**UP SLOPE LOT** \$283,000  
Approved plans for 4000 sqft dream home. Area of 1.2+ acres. Call for plan review.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

**MAXWELL PARK** \$170,000EA  
Two contiguous up slope lots in Oakland. Utilities in street. Soil report on order. Offers reviewed after soil report is received.  
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

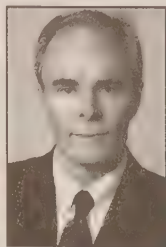




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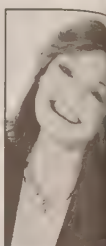
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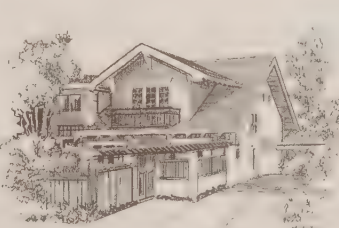
**Hillcrest Estates**  
\$1,895,000  
4+BR/3BA. San Francisco, Golden Gate, Bay Bridge, & Mt. Tam are sensational from every angle of this 2+ acre ultra-private retreat. Mediterranean & mission elements create a 4,700 sq. ft. home w/ pool & spa.

Helen Nicholas



**Alameda**  
\$1,699,000  
4BR/3BA + 2BR/2BA Au Pair with separate entrance. Gorgeous Victorian remodel. Gourmet kitchen, FR, FDR, LR, master suite. Huge home in Alameda's Gold Coast.

Andrea Gordon



**Berkeley**  
\$1,495,000

Soon

5+BR/4BA. Fabulous large N. Berkeley craftsman-style home. Multiple decks & hot tub allow one to enjoy seeing the bay, the bridge, & gorgeous sunsets. 1 BR Au Pair unit with separate entrance. Low maintenance gardens. Walk to "gourmet ghetto".

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Miriam Wilson  
(510)339-8900



**Oakland**  
\$979,000  
3+BR/2+BA. 20th century tri-plex upgraded to the 21st century w/new roof, elec., double car gar & chef's kit in owners unit. 1BR/1BA vacant unit upstairs w/ prvt entry. Studio below w/ kit & own patio. Take time to see this special property.  
515 Valley Vista Ave.  
Open Sun 2-4:30  
Tom Erwin  
www.515ValleyVista.com

**Berkeley**  
\$899,000  
Tri-plex. Wonderful tri-plex location. Nicely maintained ing & grounds. 2 additional rented units. Serious investment opportunity.

Andrea Gordon



**Oakland**  
\$769,000  
3 Units. Super tri-plex w/development potential. Beautifully maintained, exc. loc. Huge lot. Zoned R50, parcel next door avail. also. Great for owner/occupant too.

Andrea Gordon



**Oakland**  
\$699,000  
3BR/3BA. A very nice & spacious tri-level tudor. Separate private entry to updated lower level. Call for a private showing.

Sheila Broxcrawford



**Pinole**  
\$634,900  
4BR/2BA. Light cosmetic fixer. Spacious LR w/cathedral ceilings & fireplace. Large master suite. FR that leads to lushly landscaped bkyd. Minutes to regional parks, freeway & schools.  
2853 Wright Ave.  
Open Sun 2-4:30  
Jody Dworak



**Oakland**  
\$449,000  
3BR/1BA. Charming renovated craftsman! Hardwood floors, gorgeous built-ins. Stainless steel granite cntnrs. View video online: www.casabythebay.com

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**REALTY ADVOCATES**

## Weekend OPEN HOMES

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Alameda			
\$439,000	339 Broadway #211	2BD/2BA	Open Sat 1-4 & Sun. 2-5
	Mary Lee Millard	510-604-5898	Agent
\$459,000	2137 Otis Dr. #322	2BD/2BA	Sun 2-4
	Kane & Associates	510-332-5683 / 331-5480	Ron Martin/Vickie Lim
\$459,500	339 Broadway #205	2 BD/2 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey	B. & G. Bissett / J. Francis	
\$469,500	2137 Otis Dr. #121	2 BD/2 BA	Sat 2-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.	B. & G. Bissett / S. DiGiulio	
\$475,000	1594 Pacific Ave	2 BD/1 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-814-4859	Karen Wellman
\$495,000	2027 Otis Dr. #F	2 BD/2 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-522-9600	Izabella Lipetski

Alameda			
\$498,500	1426 MacArthur Blvd	2 BD/1 BA	Sun 1-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-207-2378	Donnaluci Williams
\$529,000	1130 Fontana Dr	3 BD/1.5 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	(510) 508-1215/332-5683/331-5480	J. McNulty/R. Martin/V. Lim
\$539,000	3210 Fiji Lane	2 BD/1.5 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Kane & Associates	J. McNulty/R. Martin/V. Lim	
\$569,000	1829 9th St.	2 BD/1 BA	Sat 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-814-4838	Karen Miller
\$615,000	635 Centre Ct	2 BD/2.5 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-814-4802	Rich Krinks
\$629,000	1089 Melrose	3 BD/2.5 BA	Sat 2-4
	Kane & Associates	510-410-6058 / 846-4141	Marie Kane / Elizabeth Kane

Alameda			
\$629,000	1522 Court Street	2+BD/1 BA	Sat & Sun 2-4
	Kane & Associates	510-610-5009 / 919-3204	Sally Han / Dede Cunningham
\$649,000	1606 Santa Clara Ave	2 BD/1.5 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-814-4813/814-4857	Richard & Carole Kim
\$659,000	3550 DePassier Way	2 BD/2 BA	Sat & Sun 2-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.	510-748-1807 / 748-1162	Ann Bracci / Chih Wu
\$659,000	618 Lagunaria Ln.	2 BD/2.5 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-814-4846	Janice Payne
\$678,000	28 Invincible Ct	2 BD/2 BA	Sun 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-814-4861	Susan Battaglia
\$689,000	305 Court St	4 BD/2.5 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-814-4882/814-4875	Antoinette Paulino/Deirdre Dixon
\$719,500	437 Sheffield Road	2 BD/2 BA	Sat & Sun 2-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.	510-748-1108	Bill & Griselda Bissett
\$725,000	914 Ironwood Road	3 BD/2.5 BA	Sat 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-749-0780	Lena Sazo
\$785,000	311 Laguna Vista Ave.	2+ BD/2 BA	Sat & Sun 2-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.	510-748-1108	Bill & Griselda Bissett
\$789,000	1819 Cambridge Dr.	3 BD/1 BA	Sat 1-4
	Prudential CA Realty	510-219-6334	John Abbott
\$795,000	2207 San Jose Ave.	3 BD/2 BA	Sat 1-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey	510-748-1170	John Seibach
\$799,000	1028 San Antonio Ave.	2 BD/2 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-814-4892/510-814-4819	Eunice Edwards/Nancy Bianchi
\$817,000	729 Baywood Rd	4 BD/2.5 BA	Sat/Sun 2-4:30
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-814-4870	Patricia Koutoulakis
\$859,000	4 Basinside Way	3 BD/2.5 BA	Sat 2-4
	Old Castle Mortgage, Inc.	510-534-5166	Caesar Bonifacio

Alameda			
\$879,000	126 Sable Pointe	3 BD/2.5 BA	Sat 2-4
	Kane & Associates	510-506-3383 / 522-4633	Kathy Ratto / Beverly Fukuchi
\$898,000	1605 Buena Vista Ave.	3-4 BD	Sun 2-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey	510-748-1148	Patricia Dimacali
\$925,000	1815 Broadway	1 BD/1 BA	Sun 2-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey	510-748-1125 / 748-1158	Troy Staten / Tom Bennett
\$925,000	2529 Eagle Ave.	4-Unit	Sun 2-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.	510-748-1125 / 748-1168	Troy Staten / Kirk Knight
\$980,000	1941 Sand Creek Way	4 BD/3 BA	Sun 1-4
	Kane & Associates	510-828-3118	Kathie & Patrick Ng
\$998,000	360 Jack London Ave.	4BD/3BA	Sat & Sun 1-4
	Coldwell Banker	510-847-9757	Katie Macks
\$1,250,000	1557 Pacific	6 BD/4 BA	Sun 2-4
	Panavista Realty	510-523-0707	Ramesh
Albany			
\$539,000	453 Jackson St.	2BD/2BA	Open Sun 2-4
	Marvin Gardens R.E.	510-527-9111	Laura Dubinett
\$549,000	708 Adams St	2bd/2ba	Open Sat. 2-5
	Target Realty	510-758-5119	Peggy Tseng
\$875,000	1347 Washington Ave	3+bd/2ba	Open Sun. 2-4
	Bill Shaw, JeansRealty.com	510-524-8508	
\$949,000	1010 Peralta St	4bd/2ba	Open Sat/Sun. 2-5
	Windermere Bay Area	510-409-6977 Liz Stevens	
Berkeley			
\$160,000	2550 Dana St. #3G	Studio	Open Sun 2-4
	Pacific Union Residential	510-338-1363	Leslie Easterday
\$459,000	2474 Martin Luther King Way	2BD/2BA	Open Sun 2-4:30
	The Grubb Co.	510-652-2133	Susie Schevill

Berkeley			
\$530,000	2711 Mabel St.	2BD	Open Sun 2-4
	Coldwell Banker	510-984-2000/415-3711	Parviz Bagheri
\$565,000	2104 Sacramento St	3BD	Open Sun. 1-5
	Windermere Bay Area	510-984-2000/415-3711	Gina
\$669,000	1060 Grizzly Peak	3BD	Open Sun 2-4
	Red Oak Realty	510-340-3400	Shahla
\$769,000	1486 Campus Dr	3BD	Open Sat 1-4 & Sun. 2-5
	Dennis Millard	510-428-0757	
\$849,000	900 Cragmont Ave	3+BD	Open Sun 1-4
	Alain Pinel Realtors	510-828-3118	Saraya
\$950,000	31 Avenida Drive	4BD	Open Sun 2-4:30
	Alain Pinel Realtors	510-828-3118	Wendy
\$985,000	1418 Milvia St.	5BD	Open Sun 2-5
	Coldwell Banker	510-428-0757	Barb Allendorf/Mick
\$1,150,000	2010 Yolo Avenue	4BD	OPEN 1-4
	Investment House Realty	510-428-0757	Jeanne
\$1,195,000	60 Eucalyptus Rd	5BD	Open Sat/Sun. 2-5
	Prudential	510-428-0757	Julie
\$2,200,000	1071 Cragmont Ave	4BD	Open Sun. 2-4:30
	Marvin Gardens R.E.	510-428-0757	Todd Hodson/Ron Egan
Castro Valley			
\$649,000	3161 Brent Ct	3BD	Sat 1-4
	Harbor Bay Realty	510-748-1170/748-1168	Eunice
\$895,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4BD	Sat 1-4
	Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.	510-748-1170/748-1168	J. Seibach/L.
El Cerrito			
\$495,000	1440 Elm St	3BD	Open Sun. 2-4
	Marvin Gardens R.E.	510-428-0757	Gloria

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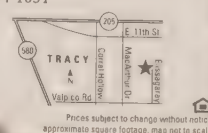
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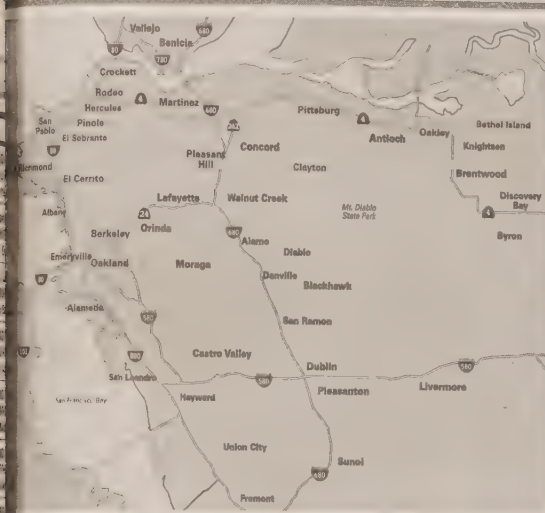
## And then some



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3800 Maybelle Ave. #12	2 BD/1.5 BA
510-346-4112	

en Sat & Sun 2-5	Millsmont	925-568-7300
idential California Realty		Adam Watts

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99,000	3815 Ruby St	2BD/2BA
en Sun 2-5	Temescal	510-868-1400

8,000	3445 Henrietta	4 Units	\$
on Sun 1-4		510-834-2010	O

1,000	320 Landmark Ct.	480/278A
on Sun 2:15-4:15pm		510-691-1222
	Well Banker Bartels-Realtors	Sam Cheng
1,000	3657 Park Ridge Dr.	480/38A
on Sun 2:15-4:15pm		510-691-1222

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**2137 OTIS DRIVE #121 \$469,500**  
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**437 SHEFFIELD ROAD \$719,500**  
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**3550 DePASSIER WAY \$659,000**  
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**Ann Bracci 510-748-1807**  
**Chih Wu 510-748-1162**



**311 LAGUNA VISTA AVENUE \$785,000**  
**Bay View Estates Open Sat & Sun 2-4**  
 Welcome to this rare one level 2+ bedroom, 2 bath home located on the lagoon in Bay View Estates. New kitchen including appliances, hardwood floors, fireplace and more!  
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**339 BROADWAY AVE #205 \$459,500**  
**Laguna Hacienda Open Sat & Sun 2-4**  
 Price reduction! Stop by and enjoy this rare 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with lagoon view and many upgrades throughout. Hurry won't last long!  
[www.gallagherandlindsey.com](http://www.gallagherandlindsey.com)  
**Bill & Griselda Bissett 510-748-1108**  
**Justine Francis 510-748-1164**



**1815 BROADWAY \$925,000**  
**East End Open Sunday 2-4**  
 Four-Unit income property. End unit is a large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to Bridgeside Center, transportation and the Park Street Market Place. Large lot with plenty of parking.  
[www.gallagherandlindsey.com](http://www.gallagherandlindsey.com)  
**Troy Staten 510-748-1125**  
**Tom Bennett 510-748-1158**

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## ALAMEDA



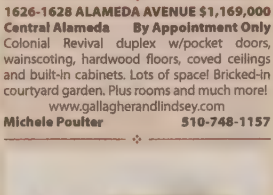
**2529 EAGLE AVENUE \$925,000**  
**East End Open Sunday 2-4**  
 Four-Unit income property. End unit is a large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to Bridgeside Center, transportation and the Park Street Market Place. Large lot with plenty of parking.  
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**Troy Staten 510-748-1125**  
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**1605 BUENA VISTA AVENUE \$898,000**  
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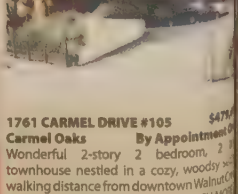
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## Around the horn

### Lacrosse club drops doubleheader

■ The Skyline Lacrosse Club boys juniors A team suffered back-to-back losses on April 1, as it fell 6-0 to Town School of San Francisco in the first game of a twin bill, and followed with a 4-2 loss to the Red Hawks from the South Bay in the nightcap.

On the plus side, Skyline Lacrosse played well on defense against Town, but ragged passing limited offensive opportunities. Travis Moscone was strong in goal for Skyline Lacrosse with several saves and some aggressive field play. But Town had a big advantage in time of possession.

Skyline Lacrosse shook off that loss to play a better game against the Red Hawks, displaying much higher intensity in the first half, especially. Still, Skyline Lacrosse's defense had more action than the offense. Jeff Hodgkinson and Robby Inch each scored a goal for Skyline Lacrosse. A cold start in the third quarter and several penalties hurt Skyline, and the Red Hawks scored three goals in that quarter.

— Mike McGreehan and the Skyline Lacrosse Club

### Alameda High alumni baseball

■ Alameda High School baseball invites former Hornets players to participate in an alumni-versus-varsity game at Lincoln Park on Saturday, April 22 at noon. Contact Hornets coach Ken Americh at 510-523-2193 or 925-381-5378, or assistant Steve Yamasaki at 510-865-0696 or SYamasaki11@sprintPCS.com. Be sure to leave a contact phone number.

— Mike McGreehan

### ACCAL rain plans

■ In a meeting on April 6, Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League athletic directors and the league commissioner decided to play two full dates worth of rainout baseball and softball games on May 1 and May 8 respectively, in the order they were originally scheduled. Those would be Games 2 and 3 on the ACCAL schedule. The first set of games (Game No. 1) can be made up at any time, ACCAL commissioner Bill Jones said. "The first priority was to play a full schedule. The second priority was to keep the schedule as balanced as possible," Jones said. On Thursday, the league's athletic directors and Jones were scheduled to meet to discuss the rescheduling of further baseball and softball rainouts. Results of that meeting were not available at press time.

— Phil Jensen

### Ceraldi among best at Arcadia

■ Piedmont High School junior Mark Ceraldi finished fourth in the boys' seeded 1-mile race Saturday at the Arcadia Invitational. The meet is arguably one of the best invitationals in the country. Ceraldi finished the race in 4:20.52. His adjusted 1,600-meter time was 4:18.92. Last year, Ceraldi won the North Coast Section championship in the 1,600 in 4:19.04 and advanced to the California Interscholastic Federation championships. He also led the Highlanders to a first place finish in Division IV at the CIF cross country championships last fall. He took fifth overall.

— Dave Carpenter

### On Deck

■ **Berkeley at Alameda, baseball**, April 14, 3:30 p.m. — The two-time defending ACCAL champion Yellow Jackets take on the Hornets, who are 3-0 in ACCAL play at press time and hold sole possession of first place in the ACCAL.

■ **El Cerrito at Encinal, baseball**, April 14, 3:30 p.m. — The Gauchos have not yet played an ACCAL game at press time because of rainouts, and the Jets (1-0 ACCAL) always provide tough competition.

■ **Willie Stargell Classic, baseball**, April 15-19 — Encinal High School will hold its 15th edition of the tournament at the College of Alameda. All three island baseball teams will be participating along with Acalanes, Campolindo, Foothill, Amador Valley and Newark Memorial. Games begin at 8 a.m. on the first day.

■ **Livermore Stampede, softball**, April 20-22 — The Hornets will be one of 16 teams competing at the tournament held at Robertson Park in Livermore. Alameda opens against Livermore at 9 a.m. on April 20 and then plays Moreau Catholic later in the day at 1 p.m.

■ **Lowell-San Francisco at Piedmont, boys golf**, April 18, 3 p.m. — The Highlanders (9-3) host the Cardinals at Piedmont Country Club. Derrick Tao led Piedmont with a 3-over 31 at Joe Mortara Golf Course in a 172-197 win over host Salesian.

### Stars of the week

■ **Jordan Wilder, St. Mary's baseball** — Wilder slammed two home runs and drove in all five Panthers runs in a 5-1 win over St. Joseph Notre Dame. He was 2-for-3 in the game.

■ **Don Miguel Tutass, El Cerrito boys volleyball** — Tutass had 12 kills and two blocks in a 25-3, 25-11, 25-14 win over St. Mary's, then had 15 kills and five blocks in a 25-21, 25-18, 25-13 victory over St. Joseph Notre Dame.

■ **Laura Cannon, Albany softball** — Cannon was 7-for-11 with 11 stolen bases and eight runs scored in three Cougars wins. In a 13-3 victory over Salesian, Cannon was 2-for-4 with four stolen bases and two runs scored. In a 17-0 win over Holy Names, Cannon was 3-for-4 with two doubles, four stolen bases, two RBI and four runs scored. In a 15-0 win over St. Joseph Notre Dame, Cannon was 2-for-3 with a double, two runs scored, an RBI and three stolen bases.

# Albany softball finally beats Salesian

■ A nine-run third inning propels the Cougars into a second-place tie in BSAL

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

The Albany High School softball team produced an historic victory when it defeated Salesian 13-3 on April 5.

Albany coach Stephanie Vasarhely, a 1999 Salesian graduate, said that "it's probably been at least 12 years since Albany has beat Salesian in softball."

The host Cougars scored nine runs in the third inning to move into a second-place tie with the Chieftains in the Bay Shore Athletic League. At press time, Albany is in first place with a 5-1 league record (6-2 overall).

The Cougars sent 13 to the plate in the third inning, and the game ended 1½ innings later due to the 10-

### HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

run rule. The game was tied at two before the Cougars' offensive explosion in the third.

Sophomore twins Joan and Laura Cannon each had two hits for Albany in the win, and combined for six stolen bases and three runs scored.

**Albany 15, St. Joseph Notre Dame 0:** Sarah Dobjensky fired a three-hitter and the visiting Cougars scored 11 runs in the second inning of this three-inning game on Friday. Laura Cannon, Amanda Hansen and Leana Petri all had two hits, including doubles, for the Cougars. Petri also had a triple.

**Berkeley 11, De Anza 0:** Sarah Neuhaus fired a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts, and also drove in two runs for host Berkeley (4-2, 1-0 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League at press time) on Monday. Amelia Kurashige-

Elliott had two hits and two RBI for the Yellow Jackets.

### BASEBALL

**Berkeley 19, De Anza 0:** The host Yellow Jackets (1-4-1, 1-1 ACCAL at press time) took a 6-0 lead in the first inning and cruised from there on Monday. Derrick Mitchell was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and two RBI, and teammate Eli Fiddler was 2-for-3 with three runs scored.

**St. Mary's 5, Albany 3:** Marcus Semien slammed a two-run home run in the top of the seventh inning, then the visiting Panthers (5-2, 2-1 BSAL at press time) shut out the Cougars (7-3, 4-2 at press time) in the bottom half of that frame to win on Monday. Semien was 2-for-3 in the game, and teammate Kevin Cannon was 3-for-4 with a triple and an RBI. Graeme Agate slammed a solo home run in the third inning for Albany and teammate Fred Atkins was 2-for-2 with a run scored.

**Hercules 2, Berkeley 1:** The Ti-

tans' Mike Dolan pitched a two-hitter with nine strikeouts to help the Hercules High School baseball team upset visiting Berkeley 2-1 on April 6.

Dolan also helped his cause at the plate with two triples and two runs scored.

After an RBI by Ellis Clark gave Berkeley a 1-0 lead in the first inning, Hercules rallied with runs in the second and sixth innings.

**St. Mary's 5, St. Joseph Notre Dame 1:** Jordan Wilder slammed two home runs, accounting for all five Panthers runs in the win Saturday. He hit a two-run shot in the second inning to give St. Mary's a 2-1 lead, and he also ripped a three-run shot in the third inning. Semien pitched a three-hitter with nine strikeouts for the Panthers.

**Albany 16, Salesian 8:** The visiting Cougars pounded out 13 hits in

See PREP, Page 2



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

BERKELEY HIGH'S Sarah Neuhaus pitches against Pinole Valley in their ACCAL game which ended up being rained out after one inning of play.

# Rain has teams scrambling

■ Local baseball and softball squads look for ways to get their games in

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

The record rainy weather has affected many high school spring sports this season. One of those sports is softball, and area coaches and teams are trying to cope.

On Friday, the Berkeley High School squad tried to get in a game with host Pinole Valley, but the competition lasted only one inning as the skies opened up.

"I just think it's really unfortunate," said Berkeley's Amelia Kurashige-Elliott minutes after the game was called. "If these games

keep getting postponed, and we've played less games than everyone else, it won't bode well for us."

Berkeley was finally able to play a game on Monday, its first game since March 24. At press time, the Yellow Jackets' record is 4-2 overall, 1-0 in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League.

"We've had four league games, and they've all been rained out. (Monday) was the first game, and that was a makeup game from two weeks ago," Berkeley coach Ron Hunt said. "It's hurt the hitting and their timing. We aren't hitting as well as we should because we haven't had time to do it in practice, and we haven't had enough games."

Alternatives for practice have needed to be used.

"You can do some things in (the

gym), but you can't bat unless you hit Wiffle balls," Hunt said. "Berkeley does have a practice field, but we haven't been able to get on Grove Park, where we play our home games, until last Thursday. The outfield still is squishy, but the infield is fine. We just have to get the games in."

Albany, amazingly, has been able to get games in. The Cougars lead the Bay Shore Athletic League with a 5-1 record. Only St. Joseph Notre Dame (0-6) has also been able to play six league games in the BSAL this season.

"We have some good parents that have been helping out to keep our home field playable," Albany coach Stephanie Vasarhely said. Also, if the opportunity presents itself, the team plays. She gave the example of last

Thursday, when good weather was forecasted so the team hosted Holy Names and got a game in.

But the weather is still taking its toll on the Cougars.

"The girls are getting tired of being inside and practice is getting monotonous," Vasarhely said. "When it comes to game day, they get a little too anxious. The first inning is when we struggle most. They just want to play."

The St. Mary's team also wants to play. The Panthers haven't played a game since March 22, an 11-0 win over St. Elizabeth.

"It's been a bummer here, not only games but practices," said St. Mary's coach Helmut Tutass about the weather. "We're not like a lot of schools who have fields, so we are at the mercy of the city."

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

To submit an item to the What's Happening calendar, e-mail [sports@cctimes.com](mailto:sports@cctimes.com) to request a form. Put "What's Happening" in the subject line. Nonprofit organizations only. You may be asked to submit a copy of your 1099 or 501(c)3 to verify nonprofit status. Entries are edited for content and are published as space is available.

### BASEBALL

■ **EBBA Powerhouse** — Tryouts for 10U team at a date, time and location to be determined. For more information call Darrell Ard, 510-691-2049 or e-mail, [coachardrell\\_8@hotmail.com](mailto:coachardrell_8@hotmail.com).

### BASKETBALL

■ **Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp** — Final applications are now being evaluated. By invitation only. Boys and girls, ages 10-19, are eligible. College basketball scholarships are possible for play-

ers selected to the All-American Team. More than 15 camp locations across the nation. For a free brochure, call 704-373-0873 any time.

■ **Youth Basketball Tournament** — North American Youth Sports annual Spring Youth Basketball Tournament in the Sacramento area has openings. The tournament will be May 19-21 at Mira Loma High School. Features 10 different brackets, ranging from 5th and 6th grade students to 11th and 12th grade students. Entry fee: \$125, guarantees each team a minimum of two games. Awards presented in each bracket. Entry deadline: April 28. Hotline: 800-787-3265, or Jeff Wise, tournament director, 916-782-5877.

■ **Youth basketball camp** — Camp for boys and girls entering grades 4-9 in the fall, June 20-23, Alameda High School, 2201 Encinal Ave. Sponsored by Alameda High School girls and boys basketball.

\$125, plus \$25 deposit, before May 1; \$150, plus \$25 deposit, after May 1. Boys signups: Allen Nakamura, 510-823-6477. Girls signups: Brad Thomas, 510-521-5311.

■ **North American Youth Sports** — Openings remain in the team's second spring youth basketball tournament (May 12-14) at Alameda High School in Oakland. Need boys and girls, grades 5-12. Entry fee: \$125; guarantees each team a minimum of two games. Entry deadline, April 21. Details and entry forms: 800-787-3265 or Curtis Cooper, 510-414-3570.

■ **Adidas Jr. Phenom Camp Boys Division** — April 15 and 16, Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo. For boys in 5th-8th grades. \$150 per player. Registration: Brian Galther, 510-860-9973, e-mail [galbrian123@aol.com](mailto:galbrian123@aol.com).

### CHEERLEADING

■ **Albany Bobcats Youth Football** — Registration for players and cheerleaders, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 22, Dave's Dugout, 863 San Pablo Ave., Albany. Open to ages 7-14. Cheerleading groups forming now. Bobcats will play in the Pop Warner program as part of the Redwood Empire Junior Football Conference. National championships in both football and cheer played in Orlando. 510-528-7055, [www.albanyfootball.com](http://www.albanyfootball.com).

### FOOTBALL

■ **Football Performance Speed Camp 2006** — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 10. For ages 13-18. Registration due by June 1. Call for location. \$95. 510-205-1883.

■ **Albany Bobcats Youth Football** — Registration for players and cheerleaders,

See CALENDAR, Page 2



HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Deer Valley	8-1	P Matthew North (4-0) won Wolverines' past three games entering this week
2.	Monte Vista	5-1	Cassady, Mustangs win showdown with Rowse, Amador Valley
3.	Acalanes	9-1	Dons back on winning track, alone atop DFAL standings entering this week
4.	California	4-1	At long last: Grizzlies back in action, pick up a pair of EBAL wins
5.	Clayton Valley	8-2	Eagles drop a 1-0 decision to surprising Pittsburg team
6.	Foothill	8-2	Wind blowing out in Pleasanton leads to slugfest, loss vs. Cal
7.	Alameda	7-3	Six straight wins and counting for the Hornets entering this week
8.	Amador Valley	5-2	Dons defense costs them in loss to Monte Vista
T9.	Dublin	7-2	Gaels have won three straight DFAL games
T9.	Pinole Valley	5-1	Unluck of the Irish: Spartans had not played since St. Patrick's Day entering this week

Also receiving votes: Encinal (6-2). The baseball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is compiled by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Results are through Saturday.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Freedom	6-0	History maker: Williams' three straight perfect games ties state record
2.	Newark Memorial	11-0	Unbeaten regular season isn't out of the question for Cougars
3.	Foothill	5-1	Falcons start EBAL campaign by shutting out California, Monte Vista
4.	Monte Vista	4-2	Losses to Newark Memorial, Foothill are by a combined three runs
5.	California	5-1	Rebounds from loss to Foothill by blanking Granada 2-0
6.	Pinole Valley	4-1	Plays one inning against Berkeley before rain postpones game
7.	Concord	4-1	Minutemen take DFAL lead with win over College Park
8.	San Ramon Valley	4-1	Wins over Granada and Livermore give Wolves first place in EBAL
9.	James Logan	5-1	Had four games in five days scheduled this week
10.	Alhambra	4-1	Looking to gain momentum going into Livermore Stampede

Also receiving votes: Benicia (5-2), Berean Christian (7-1), College Park (4-1). The softball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is voted on by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Records are through Saturday.

Prep

FROM PAGE 1

the game, and scored seven runs in the third inning to take control of this BSAL matchup on April 5. Jon Pirkle slammed a three-run home run and went 3-for-5 in the game with two runs scored and five RBI. Atkins, Carleton Steudeman and Zach Babbitt all had two hits for the Cougars. **BOYS TRACK AND FIELD** St. Mary's 107, St. Elizabeth 9; St. Mary's 99, Salesian 10: The Panthers' Matt Duffy won three events and teammates Adisa Stewart and Brandon Harris each won two to help host St. Mary's win the double-dual meet on April 6

Duffy won the 1,600 meters in 4:40.33 seconds, the 800 (2:04.64) and the 3,200 (10:18). Stewart won the 100 high hurdles (16:43) and the long jump (18 feet, 7 1/2 inches). Harris claimed the 400 (53.34) and the 200 (23.02).

**Pinole Valley 88, Hercules 42, El Cerrito 18, De Anza 14:** El Cerrito received a second-place finish from Jermel Black in the shot put (29-1) and a third-place finish from Jerome Guss in the 200 (23.52) at Hercules on April 5.

**GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD** St. Mary's 107, St. Elizabeth 1; St. Mary's 77, Salesian 33: Lauren Lopez won two events to help the host Panthers defeat the Mustangs and the Chieftains. Lopez took first in the long jump (16-4 1/2) and the triple jump (36-7).

**Hercules 82, El Cerrito 16, De Anza 0, Pinole Valley 0:** The Gauchos' Breanna White won the shot put (28-4 1/2) and teammate Destinyne McGill was third in the 200 (28.09).

**BOYS VOLLEYBALL** El Cerrito d. St. Mary's: The host Gauchos defeated the Pan-

thers 25-3, 25-11, 25-14 at Portola Middle School on April 6. Senior Michael Hudley had 16 service points, five kills and four digs, and teammate Don Miguel Tutass added 12 kills and two blocks for El Cerrito. Teammate Ramon Herrera had 10 service points and 21 assists.

St. Mary's also fell to Salesian 25-11, 25-5, 25-9 on Tuesday. **El Cerrito d. St. Joseph Notre Dame:** The host Gauchos improved to 17-5 overall with a 25-21, 25-16, 25-13 victory over the Pilots on Monday. Tutass slammed 15 kills and had five blocks, and Herrera passed for 26 assists. Teammate Robert Dufala had 14 service points.

**Berkeley d. St. Mary's:** On Monday, Tomek Stec had nine kills and Bryan Ushijima passed for 21 assists in the host Yellow Jackets' 25-7, 25-16, 25-11 win over the Panthers. Berkeley improved to 12-3 overall with the victory.

**Berkeley d. Salesian:** Pen Gruth slammed 13 kills and teammate Ushijima passed for 36 assists as the host Yellow Jackets edged the Chieftains 25-23, 22-25, 25-12, 27-29, 15-10 on April 6.

**BOYS TENNIS** St. Mary's 5, Salesian 2: The Panthers won three of the four singles matches in the win Tuesday at Contra Costa College. The Panthers' Ed Califano took the No. 2 singles match 6-1, 6-2 over Greg Chandler.

**Berkeley 6, De Anza 1:** The Yellow Jackets swept the doubles matches in this home win on Friday. They improved to 6-0 in ACCAL action. Sam Mansfield and Daniel Schein defeated Bee Nguyen and Anthony Ho 6-2, 6-0 in the No. 1 doubles match.

**Piedmont 6, St. Mary's 1:** David Fike avoided the shutout for the visiting Panthers on April 6 with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Kevin Lasky in the No. 4 singles match.

14, Skyline High School, 12250 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. For girls 8-up. Conducted by Skyline Coach Kim Adam. \$175 for April 10-13 plus \$50 for April 14. \$5 per day for before camp care; \$10 per day for after camp care. Bring lunch. Details: e-mail skyline@excite.com.

■ San Pablo Unified Youth Soccer Club — Boys Class 3 intermediate

**GIRLS LACROSSE** San Ramon Valley 11, Berkeley 9: Claire O'Sullivan and Haley Bellar both scored three goals for the host Yellow Jackets on April 6, but they were unable to hold off the Wolves.

**BOYS SWIMMING** St. Mary's 102, Salesian 40: Alex Cushing won three individual events to lead the Panthers in this meet on April 6 at Encinal. Cushing took first in the 200-yard freestyle (2:07.84), the 500 freestyle (5:55.15) and the 100 backstroke (1:09.13).

**St. Patrick-St. Vincent 98, Albany 72:** Alex Tran won two events for the Cougars in this BSAL meet at Cunningham Pool in Vallejo on April 6. Tran took first in the 200 individual medley (2:12.53) and the 100 freestyle (51.64).

**GIRLS SWIMMING** St. Mary's 87, Salesian 83: Raquel Yates and Kim Holland won the 100 freestyle and 500 freestyle respectively to help the Panthers edge the Chieftains at Encinal on April 6. Yates produced a time of 1:10.46 in the 100 freestyle, and Holland was clocked at 6:45.68 in the 500 freestyle.

**St. Patrick-St. Vincent 91, Albany 75:** Amy Gu, Casey Osborn and Lauren Rasmussen won individual events for the Cougars, but they were unable to overtake the Bruins at Cunningham Pool on April 6. Gu had a winning time of 28.22 in the 50 freestyle, Osborn took first in the 100 butterfly (1:00.92) and Rasmussen won the 100 backstroke (1:20.11).

**BOYS GOLF** Hercules 167, Berkeley 167, Pinole Valley 176, Alameda 178: Despite a medalist round by John Hasse, the Yellow Jackets (5-3 ACCAL) fell on a sixth-man tiebreaker on April 5 at Franklin Canyon Golf Course in Hercules. Hasse had a round of one-over 37.

competitive tryouts April 16, El Portal Soccer Park, San Pablo. Under 12 boys: 10 a.m.-noon April 16; Under 14 boys: noon-2 p.m. April 16. All players welcome. Parent or guardian must sign medical waiver. Bring cleats, shin guards, ball, water bottle, one white and one dark shirt. Contacts: Jose Medina, 510-215-9702 or Rafael Torres, 510-222-7295.

FISHING REPORT

THE BAYS

**SAN PABLO:** Jim Smith of the charter boat Happy Hooker had a relatively good day fishing the shallow waters on Saturday, catching 10 sturgeon, including two keepers, and five striped bass from 8-15 pounds. Of the eight shakers, two were around 60 inches. Smith also said there should be halibut ready to be caught near Pt. Pinole once the water clears up.

**SUISUN:** Jordana Santiago of Martinez Bait & Tackle reported good fishing this week. The weather has been poor but a lot of fish are being had. The Montezuma Slough is still doing well and San Pablo Bay has been producing as well. The early morning tides are great, the late morning tides are okay and the afternoon tides are poor. Ghost shrimp and salmon roe are the baits of choice. Grass shrimp is hard to find with all of the fresh water in the system.

Catching sturgeon were Steve Wickum of El Sobrante (56 inches) at the Concord Naval Station on a grass/ghost shrimp combo and Richard Miguel of Martinez (53 inches, 32.6 pounds) at Buoy 4 on ghost shrimp.

Carl Moyer of Concord and Edwin Cuago of Antioch had two amazing days at the Montezuma Slough, with Moyer catching and releasing a 53-inch, 32.6-pound sturgeon as well as ones of 78, 59, 53 and 40 inches.

Cuago caught sturgeon of 54 and 40 inches. All seven were caught with salmon roe and all were released.

Sean Cofer of Concord caught the only reported striped this week (35.5 inches, 16.4 pounds) from the Martinez Regional shoreline on anchovies.

THE RIVERS

**SACRAMENTO RIVER, REDDING:** Kirk Portocarrero of Outdoor Adventures Sport Fishing said fishing is on hold due to high water flows. Before the storms, fly fishing was good on the Sacramento River for wild rainbow trout from Redding to Anderson. Portocarrero and his clients are fishing as the weather allows.

THE DELTA

Bernadette Pipkins of Gotchal Bait and Tackle in Antioch said judging by the number of minnows that are being sold, anglers are starting to go out for black bass. A reminder to throw back female black bass as it is spawning season. Anglers can also only keep sturgeon that are between 46-56 inches.

The Delta is closed to boaters until at least Friday as high water levels and floating debris have created a hazard.

Antioch Pier and the mouth of Sherman Lake are popular places for striped and black bass anglers, as well as Riverview Lodge and Humphrey's Marina.

Those fishing for black bass will have success plugging if they can find clear water.

Art Snowden caught a 6-pound black bass from Holland Tract using minnows and Armando Ramos caught an 8-pound black bass from the Antioch Pier using minnows.

Pat Sebers caught a 3-pound striped from West Island using ghost shrimp, Tony Graham caught a 4.5-pound striped from the Antioch Pier using anchovies and Rich Miguel caught a 54-inch, 40-pound sturgeon from Buoy 4 near Martinez using ghost shrimp.

THE LAKES

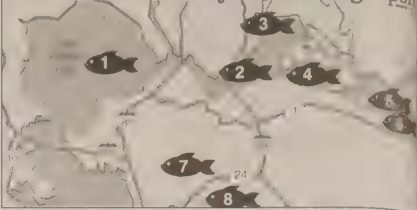
**LAKE CHABOT, CASTRO VALLEY:** The staff at Lake Chabot reported trout fishing remains good despite the weather conditions. Many limits are being caught on both the east and west shoreline. Anglers are having success using PowerBait and Power Eggs.

The best spot to fish for trout is the second dock on the west shore line. Trolling remains slow right now, but will improve once the lake clears.

The annual trout derby starts Friday.

Tickets will be available starting today.

Curtis Pashelka's Bay Area fishing report



Poor	Fair	Good	Great	Excellent
1. San Pablo Bay — Bass fishing keeps getting better	2. Mothball Fleet — Buoy 4 has been producing	3. Montezuma Slough — Still a popular place for sturgeon anglers	4. Honker Bay — Need to fish the early morning tides	5. Sherman Lake — Trout here for stripers
				6. Antioch Pier — Anglers trying more for black bass
				7. San Pablo Reservoir — Trout fishing remains a challenge
				8. Lafayette Reservoir — Trout action is slowly improving

No bass were reported caught. Bass fishing is generally a little slow this time of year but it should improve when the water clears up. There are no reports of catfish being caught. In prior weeks, catfish were being caught from the first dock on the west shore trail.

The water is still muddy, which means catfish will be more active. The most common baits are chicken liver or mackerel.

Catfishing will improve when the water warms up. Honker Bay is generally the best spot to fish for catfish.

**LOS VAQUEROS, BRENTWOOD:** The staff at Los Vaqueros said a lot of trout are being pulled from the South Cove, mostly on night crawlers or PowerBait.

Oak Point and the ADA dock are the places to try as well, and are even producing a few bass.

Use a sliding sinker set-up with about a 24-inch leader. PowerBait and night crawlers are the universal baits throughout the reservoir.

Trollers should head directly across from the marina to the east shoreline, turn right and move along the shore towards the South Cove.

If the fish aren't biting there, head towards the buoy line by the dam.

Use the small green Rapalas. Los Vaqueros' annual Spring Trout Derby starts Friday. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

Don Govan caught a 6.39-pound bass on a night crawler in the cove next to the handicap pier and Jim McCrary caught a 7.89-pound trout in the south cove on a night crawler and Power Egg combo.

**SAN PABLO RESERVOIR, EL SOBRANTE:** The staff at San Pablo Reservoir said trout fishing from a boat in Scow Canyon or from the shore at the Main Recreation area seem to be the best options.

Use a sliding sinker set-up with a 24-inch leader. PowerBait, night crawlers or salmon eggs all seem to be effective.

Use attractants in addition to your bait. Anglers will need to be patient as the conditions don't necessarily lend themselves to trout fishing.

The good news is that the fish being caught all seem to be big. There hasn't been much change in the success of anglers who want to troll.

The murky water has made it extra hard to catch fish. Trollers should make their way to Scow Canyon dragging flashers and something bright like a Kastmaster or a multi-colored Rapala.

Catfishing is probably best near the tower from a boat.

Use lightweight tackle so the bait drifts naturally.

Chicken liver, mackerel or night crawlers plus a catfish specific

attractant seems to work well. John James of El Sobrante caught a 17-pound catfish near preserve on chicken liver and Oliver of El Sobrante caught a pound catfish on a night crawler near the dam.

Catching bass were Darral of Richmond (9 pounds), using mackerel on an undisclosed location, Jim White of Antioch (8.8 pounds) on a gold Kastmaster Wild Boar Cove, and Kent Bass of El Sobrante (13 pounds, 2 lb.) at Oak Point on Power Bait.

**LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, LAFAYETTE:** The staff at Lafayette Reservoir said fishing is slowly improving up as anglers have been catching two or three trout at various locations.

The water is still a bit cloudy, therefore anglers are having a best luck with brightly colored PowerBait such as rainbow or treuse.

Bass anglers have been fairly well using jigs in shallow around the docks.

**FROM THE LIVERWELL** The Eighth Annual Outdoor Sportsman's Coalition of California trout derby will be held April 14 from 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Lafayette Reservoir.

Deadline to enter is April 22, 6:30 a.m. Fee is \$25 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 6-11). For more information, call 925-371-6622.

—Curtis Pashelka

Calendar

FROM PAGE 1

10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 22, Dave's Dugout, 863 San Pablo Ave., Albany. Open to ages 7-14. Bobcats field teams at five levels. Team assignments are determined by age and weight. Bobcats will play in the Pop Warner program as part of the Redwood Empire Junior Football Conference. Other championships in both football and cheer played in Orlando. 510-528-7055. www.albanyfootball.com.

■ East Bay Warriors Pop Warner — Registration is open to boys and girls, ages 5-15. There is a weight requirement. No try-outs; first come, first served. Space is limited. 510-869-4760. www.eastbaywarriors.org.

FUND-RAISERS

■ Encinal High School Athletic Boosters — 7th annual Crab Feed and auction, April 29, Albert H. DeWitt "O" Club, 641 W. Redline Ave., Alameda Point. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets, presale only: \$40 per person; includes salad, pasta, bread, crab and dessert. Reserve a table for 10 for \$500. Beer and wine available for purchase. Contact: Theresa Tenorio, Encinal High School, 510-748-4023, or Phil Canalin, 510-769-9896.

SOCCER

■ Girls Soccer Camp — "Spring Break Soccer Camp," all day on April

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NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. Reviewers are Randy Myers, Contra Costa Times; Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Steven Rea, Carrie Rickley and Rene Rodriguez, Knight Ridder; Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire, Associated Press; Bob Langino, Cox News Service; Anita Gales, Dave Kehr, Manicha Dargis, A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jamie Bernard, Jack Matthews, New York Daily News; Bob Strauss, Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Carina Chocano, Kevin Crust, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Chris Vognar and Philip Wuntch, Dallas Morning News; Colin Covert, Minneapolis Star Tribune; Jay Boyar and Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Carla Meyer, Sacramento Bee; Ty Burr and Wesley Moris, Boston Globe; Steve Persall, St. Petersburg Times; Curt Fields, Ann Hornaday, Stephen Hunter, Philip Kennicott, Michael O'Sullivan and Jonathon Thomson, Washington Post.

**"ADAM & STEVE":** It's the standard romantic-comedy formula of boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl, boy-gets-girl, except it's boy-meets-boy. Adam hooks up with Steve in the '80s, but their first date is ruined. They fall for each other again in the present. The movie? They don't remember they met 17 years earlier, and since we do, we worry about what will happen when they figure it out. — C. Hewitt. (NR: contains R-level nudity, drug use and strong language.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B+

**"ATL":** A movie of understated charms, "ATL" will be compared to "Roll Bounce," but only by the intellectually lazy. The hero, Rashad (rapper T.I.), dates a fellow skating rink regular named New-Now. But New-Now's neighborhood is a bit nicer than Rashad knows. Meanwhile, Rashad's buddy Esquire hustles golfers at the country club where he works, earning him taunts of "Tiger Hood" and "Black Nicklaus." — C. Vognar. (PG-13: some violence, mild language and drug use.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B

**"AQUAMARINE":** Set in a beach resort where two friends, Claire and Haley, are about to be separated (one is moving to Australia). Then the duo finds a mermaid in the pool, which means they have to deal with the mermaid, the moving-away thing and a cute, blond lifeguard named Ray. Nothing original here, but there's a sense that the script understands how tween girls think. — C. Hewitt. (PG: mild language, sexuality.) 1

hour, 43 minutes. C+

**"ASK THE DUST":** Salma Hayek is sultry and Colin Farrell is studly, but they have zero chemistry in this cheesy, clueless Depression-era romance directed by the venerable Robert Towne, who wrote the screenplay for "Chinatown." — R. Myers. (R: some sexuality, nudity, language.) 1 hour, 57 minutes. D+

**"AWESOME: ... I SHOT THAT!":** The Beastie Boys handed out video cameras to 50 fans and told them to go wild gathering footage of their sold-out October 2004 Madison Square Garden show. The intention was to capture an authentic audience experience. The result: a jerky, headache-inducing experience that is almost unwatchable. — C. Lemire. (R: language.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. C

**"BASIC INSTINCT 2":** Psychopathic novelist Catherine Trammel (Sharon Stone) lures a control-freak psychiatrist (an amemic David Morrissey) into her kinky parlor. But it takes more than 90 minutes for this bozo to muster up the chutzpah to go there. That's part of the problem in this unsexy sequel to the 1992 steamhoun. Stone obviously brings this baby home, and even sports a nifty hair style that should become all the rage at beauty shops. — R. Myers. (R: strong sexuality, nudity, violence, language and some drug content.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. C-

**"THE BENCHWARMERS":** David Spade and Jon Heder are two virginal nerds whose lifetime of getting picked on is avenged when they join their pal, Gus (Rob Schneider), for a three-on-nine baseball scrimmage against some Little League bullies. If flatulence, crotch-kicks, tequila-benders and nerd revenge are your thing, by all means, head to a multiplex. — R. Moore. (PG-13: crude and suggestive humor, and language.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. D

**"BRICK":** A film noir set mostly in a Southern California high school sounds a lot like a "Saturday Night Live" skit. But first-time director Rian Johnson makes it sing, paying reverence to movies of the past while bringing in a contemporary spin. Joseph Gordon-Levitt ("Mysterious Skin") is excellent as a tough-talker sent out to nab his ex-girlfriend's killer. The journey takes him into a suburban world of drug-dealing, full of freaks and geeks. Done in a style that boldly reinvents a film genre. — R. Myers. (R: violence, drug content.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. A-

**"BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN":** Two cowboys (Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger) fall unexpectedly in love in director Ang Lee's masterful ode to

the West and romance. The pair meet and find themselves impossibly attracted to each other while herding sheep on Brokeback Mountain, then form a clandestine relationship that lasts 20 years. Everything about this beautiful and evocative film works, from the cast to the direction to the score. — R. Myers. (R: sexuality, nudity, language and some violence.) 2 hours, 14 minutes. A

**"CAPOTE":** Philip Seymour Hoffman shouldn't be the only name considered for an Oscar nomination in this rich and profound film about the making of a masterpiece and the undoing of a writer. Hoffman never misses a beat playing flamboyant author Truman Capote. The assured movie, from director Bennett Miller, follows the egomaniacal author through the process of writing his masterpiece, "In Cold Blood." Catherine Keener is excellent as Capote's friend, and assistant, Harper Lee. — R. Myers. (R: some violent images and brief strong language.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. A

**"THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE":** The childlike wonderment we experienced when we first encountered the magical world of author C.S. Lewis is replicated in this enchanting adaptation. Four children living in England's countryside during WWII enter a wardrobe that takes them to a winter wonderland where an evil White Witch (Tilda Swinton) with killer fashion sense is in a tug-of-war with a majestic and virtuous lion (voiced by Liam Neeson). The film with Christian themes lags as it enters its more talky third final act, but "Narnia" casts quite a spell. — R. Myers. (PG: battle sequences, frightening moments.) 2 hours, 20 minutes. B+

**"CSA: THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA":** Filmmaker Kevin Willmott adroitly combines the techniques of the mock documentary with the philosophy of alternate or "what if" history. It provocatively presents the world as it would be if the South had won the Civil War and slavery persisted to this day. A world that, in a savage twist, is closer to the one we live in than we might imagine. — K. Turan. (Not rated.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B-

**"CURIOUS GEORGE":** In the animated adaptation of H.A. Rey's carter children's classics, museum curator Ted meets George while leading an African expedition for a fabled idol. The statue is just the thing needed to boost the museum's falling attendance, but naturally the mission doesn't go as planned. Ted's main trophy from Africa is the friendly little

monkey, whose high jinks back in the big city help save the museum. — C. Covert. (G) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B

**"DATE MOVIE":** The "brainchild" of two members of the "Scary Movie" writing team skewers the romantic comedy genre. Just as spooky and trashy as those other movies, but maybe a tad more sophisticated. Could be better material, or the acting gifts of Alyson Hannigan ("American Pie"). — B. Strauss. (PG-13: sex, language.) 1 hour, 23 minutes. B

**"DAVE CHAPPELLE'S BLOCK PARTY":** A good-limey vibe lasts from beginning to end of "Party," which is mostly musical performances but also has segments where Chappelle does his thing. The comedian is effortlessly hilarious, whether he's chatting with lucky Dayton, Ohio, residents who snagged all-expenses-paid trips to the concert, or rehearsing deliberately awful jokes. — C. Hewitt. (R: drug references, strong language.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B+

**"DEEP SEA 3D":** This excellent IMAX movie has a message about the importance of relationships under the sea. It travels seamlessly from "cleaning stations" where green sea turtles get algae scraped off their backs to an octopus devouring a helpless crustacean — and beyond. — N. Churnin. (Not rated.) 45 minutes. A-

**"THE DEVIL AND DANIEL JOHNSTON":** If you're a fan of cult musician Daniel Johnston, you'll want to see this documentary on the man and his life. If you're not a fan, you're going to wonder what the fuss is about. A performer of formidable self-absorption, Johnston has inspired a film with the same trait, and the results are about what you might expect. — K. Turan. (PG-13: thematic elements, drug content and language including a sexual reference.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. C

**"DON'T COME KNOCKING":** The film plays like a greatest-hit collection stuck on replay. Despite "Knocking's" artistic pretensions and preening — a drama about a Hollywood cowboy caught in a web of family ties, new and old — it is just refresh, filled with one shouting match after another. The film has some fleeting moments of greatness, but it's not enough to get us through the whining. Film veterans Sam Shepard and director Wim Wenders should be raising the bar, not resting their elbows on it. — R. Myers. (R: language, brief nudity.) 2 hours, 2 minutes. C

**"DON'T TELL (LA BESTIAL NEL CUORE)":** Directed by Cristina Comencini and based on a novel she wrote, this foreign language film Oscar winner not only charts a tale of a

OPENING TODAY

**"KINKY BOOTS" (PG-13):** A struggling shoe manufacturer hits on the notion of designing stiletto boots, for men. Chiwetel Ejiofor ("Serenity") plays the drag queen who serves as the inspiration.

**"LA MUJER DE MI HERMANO" (R):** An unhappy wife who's been married for 10 years searches to set off some sparks in the arms of her husband's brother.

**"THE NOTORIOUS BETTIE PAGE" (R):** Gretchen Mol plays the famous '50s pinup star who was raised in a religiously conservative household but never thought twice about being nude.

**"SCARY MOVIE 4" (PG-13):** In the latest entry in this spoof franchise, a fresh batch of movies and celebrities gets skewered, including "War of the Worlds" and its sofa-jumping star, Tom Cruise.

**"SHAKESPEARE BEHIND BARS" (NR):** This award-winning documentary follows inmates at Ken-

tucky's Luther Luckett Correctional Complex as they stage the Bard's "The Tempest."

**"THE WILD" (PG):** Animals from the New York Zoo search for one of their chums that has been sent back into the wild. Kiefer Sutherland and Eddie Izzard lend their voices for this animated Disney feature.

**Coming soon**  
**"AMERICAN DREAMZ" (PG-13):** In this satire, the president (Dennis Quaid) becomes a guest-judge on the hottest talent show on television, "American Dreamz." (April 21)

**"AKEELAH AND THE BEE" (PG):** An 11-year-old girl from Los Angeles enters a spelling bee, despite the objections of her mother (Angela Bassett). She goes on to the national competition. (April 28)

**"UNITED 93" (R):** An unflinching drama that tells the story of United Airlines Flight 93, the fourth hijacked plane on Sept. 11.

young woman who gradually awakens to the fact that her dear, departed dad molested her many years ago, but it also takes us on crowd-pleasing side trips that lighten the weight of the heavy main melodrama. — B. Strauss. (R: sexual content, nudity, language, a brief violent image, in Italian with subtitles.) 2 hours. B

**"DUCK SEASON":** Mexican filmmaker Fernando Eimbcke captures the restlessness and confusion of adolescence in ways both funny and profound. Best friends Flama and Moko have the day mapped out — junk food and video games. But you know what they say about the best-laid plans. This is one of those beautifully observed movies in which not much seems to happen, but in reality, everything does. — G. Whipp. (R: language, some drug content; in Spanish with subtitles.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. B+

**"EIGHT BELOW":** A sort of "Old Yeller" in the Antarctic about eight intrepid sled dogs left behind when a blizzard cuts off travel, and the mushy musher who resolves he's not going to take that lying down. Paul Walker is Jerry, the guide who takes a meteor-hunter into the mountains, where accidents happen and the dogs do their Saint Bernard act. — R. Moore. (PG: some peril, brief mild language.) 2 hours. B

**"EVIL":** This Swedish film set at an elite boys' school in the mid-1950s illustrates how cruelties exacted in the name of initiation are perpetuated year after year. What happens when a student breaks the code of blind obedience and stands up to the leaders? An aggressive newcomer learns the consequences of defiance the hard way. — S. Holden. (NR: in Swedish, with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. C

**"FAILURE TO LAUNCH":** Misguided enough to think we want to see Terry Bradshaw's saggy family. We'd much rather see the well-toned rears of attractive leads Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew McConaughey. A zizzagging comedy about a diehard bachelor still living at home (McConaughey) and the woman hired to woo him away. The supporting characters, including Kathy Bates and Zoey Deschanel, steal the show. — R. Myers. (PG-13: sexual content, partial nudity, language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. C

**"FINAL DESTINATION 3":** When a class outing ends in a roller-coaster tragedy, the lucky few who ditched the ride at the last moment discover they're not so lucky after all — they're scheduled for extermination anyway.

Two scramble to find clues to their friends' impending doom in photos taken at the amusement park. — C. Covert. (R: strong horror violence/gore, language, some nudity.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. C+

**"FIND ME GUILTY":** It looks like a courtroom drama, but this movie is really an oddball comedy. Based on the true story of Jackie DiNorscio (Vin Diesel), a New Jersey gangster who figures he could do as well as his expensive but unsuccessful lawyers. In defending himself against conspiracy charges, he overlooks points of law (which he knows nothing about) and uses humor to distract the jury. — C. Hewitt. (R: strong language, some violence.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. C+

**"FIREWALL":** Harrison Ford returns to his frantic roots as a bank security expert whose family is held hostage by captors resembling members of a boy band. Both Virginia Madsen as his wife and Paul Bettany as the chief of the baddies are wasted in this feeble and ineptly written thriller. — R. Myers. (PG-13: some intense sequences of violence.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. D+

**"FREEDOMLAND":** A white woman (Julianne Moore) says she was carjacked by a black man, a claim that sets off racial tension in a New Jersey housing project and leads to a search for the missing child she claimed was in her back seat. This intense, morally complex thriller also stars a solid Samuel L. Jackson as a detective skeptical about her story. The movie has its failings, including a miscast Moore, but it is gripping and takes us to places we don't expect. — R. Myers. (R: language and some violence.) B

**"FRIENDS WITH MONEY":** A quartet of marvelous actresses — Frances McDormand, Catherine Keener, Joan Cusack and Jennifer Aniston — shine in this wry and observant comedy-drama about a group of Southern California women coping with life, mates and money... or the lack of it. Writer/director Nicole Holofcener proves yet again how astute she is at exploring the minds and emotions of complex female characters. R. Myers. (R: language, some sexual situations, brief drug use.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. A-

**"GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK":** George Clooney directed, wrote and co-stars in this sharp black-and-white film about veteran newsman Edward R. Murrow's tangle with anti-Communist fanatic Joseph McCarthy (wisely depicted in archival footage). The film

See MOVIES, Page C5

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday April 14

**Albany Twin**  
1115 Solano Ave., Albany 510-464-5980  
•Friends With Money (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35  
•Tsois (R) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:25.

**AMC Bay Street 16**  
3614 Shellmound St., Emeryville 510-457-4262  
•The Benchwarmers (PG-13) 1:05, 2:10, 3:10, 4:20, 5:20, 6:35, 7:35, 8:40, 9:40, 10:50  
•Brick (R) 3:20, 5:50, 8:25, 10:55  
•Failure to Launch (PG-13) 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35  
•Inside Man (R) 2:50, 5:40, 7:30, 8:30, 10:35

•La Mujer de Mi Hermano (R) 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:25  
•Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 3:05, 5:35, 7:55, 10:40  
•The Devil and Daniel Johnston (PG-13) 1, 1:30, 2:15, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45, 4:30, 5, 5:30, 6:05, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 8:15, 9, 9:30, 10, 10:30, 11  
•The Shaggy Dog (PG) 2:55, 5:10  
•Take the Lead (PG-13) 1:20, 3, 4:05, 5:40, 7:20, 8:20, 10:05  
•V for Vendetta (R) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:20  
•The Wild (G) 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11.

**California Theatre**  
2113 Kittredge St., Berkeley 510-464-5980  
•Lucky Number Sleevin (R) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30  
•Thank You for Smoking (R) 12:45, 1:30, 3:45, 5:15, 6, 7:30, 8:15, 9:40, 10:30.

**Chabot Space & Science Center**  
1000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300  
•Cosmic Voyage (Not Rated) 11:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30  
•Forces of Nature (Not Rated) 8  
•The Human Body (Not Rated) 10:30, 12:30, 4  
•The Living Sea (Not Rated) 7  
•Mysteries of Egypt (Not Rated) 1:30, 6

**Elmwood 3**  
2899 College Ave., Berkeley 510-649-0530  
•Crash (R) 4:30, 6:50, 9:15  
•Am & Sex Addict (Not Rated) 5:40, 7:30, 9:30  
•Sylvia (R) 6:15, 9.

**Renaissance Grand Lake Theatre**  
3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-452-3556  
•Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) 12, 2:15, 4:30, 7, 9  
•Inside Man (R) 12:45, 4, 7:25, 10, 10:30  
•Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 6, 8, 10:10  
•V for Vendetta (R) 12:30, 3:30, 7:10, 9:45.

**Oaks Theatre**  
1975 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1836  
•Eight Below (PG) 2  
•Failure to Launch (PG-13) 2:15, 7:30  
•She's the Man (PG-13) 4:45  
•Sophie Scholl - The Final Days (Not Rated) 5, 7:45.

**Parkway Speakeasy Theatre**  
1900 Rock Hill, Oakland 510-814-2400  
•Dave Chappelle's Block Party (R) 9:15  
•Am & Sex Addict (Not Rated) 7  
•Sylvia (R) 9:45.

•Transamerica (R) 6:30

**Piedmont Theatre**  
4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-464-5980  
•Friends With Money (R) 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9, 9:45  
•Thank You for Smoking (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30  
•Tsois (R) 12, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9.

**Regal Jack London**  
100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320  
•Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 12, 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:20

**Shattuck Cinemas**  
2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-464-5980  
•ATL (PG-13) 7:20, 9:55  
•The Benchwarmers (PG-13) 12:50, 2:55, 4:55, 7:10, 9:15  
•Brick (R) 1:55, 4:45, 7:30, 10  
•Brokeback Mountain (PG-13) 9  
•The Devil and Daniel Johnston (PG-13) 2:10, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30  
•Inside Man (R) 1, 3:50, 6:55, 9:45  
•Joyeux Noel (PG-13) 1:50, 4:50  
•L'Enfant (R) 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10:05  
•The Notorious Bettie Page (R) 2:05, 4:25, 7:25, 9:50  
•Shakespeare Behind Bars (Not Rated) 1:45, 4:30, 7, 9:20  
•Take the Lead (PG-13) 2, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40  
•Transamerica (R) 1:10, 6:30.

**United Artists Berkeley 7**  
2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-486-1852  
•Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 11, 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10.

**United Artists Emery Bay Stadium 10**  
6330 Christie Ave., Emeryville 510-420-0107  
•ATL (PG-13) 11:35, 12:15, 2, 2:45, 4:20, 5:15, 7, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15  
•Basic Instinct 2 (R) 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:05  
•Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) 11:30, 12, 12:45, 1:50, 2:20, 3:30, 4:10, 4:40, 5:45, 6:45, 7:15, 8, 9, 9:45, 10:20  
•Lucky Number Sleevin (R) 11:50, 2:40, 5:30, 8, 10:30  
•She's the Man (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10  
•Slither (R) 12:30, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:25  
•Thank You for Smoking (R) 11:45, 2:10, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40.

Central Contra Costa

**Renaissance Orinda Theatre**  
4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060  
•Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) 12, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9  
•Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7, 9:15  
•Thank You for Smoking (R) 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:30.

**Rheem All Stadium 4**  
350 Park St., Moraga 925-968-3411  
•The Benchwarmers (PG-13) 5:05, 7:35, 10  
•Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) 5, 7:40, 9:50  
•Take the Lead (PG-13) 5:15, 7:45, 9:45  
•The Wild (G) 5:10, 7:30, 9:55.

West Contra Costa

**Century 16 Hilltop**  
3200 Moss Way, Richmond 510-758-2345  
•ATL (PG-13) 11:50, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50  
•The Benchwarmers (PG-13) 11:55, 12:55, 2, 3, 4:10, 5:05, 6:15, 7:10, 8:20, 9:15, 10:25  
•Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) 11:25, 12:25, 1:55, 2:45, 4:15, 5:10, 6:30, 7:35, 8:45, 9:45  
•Inside Man (R) 1:05, 4, 7, 10  
•La Mujer de Mi Hermano (R) 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 7:55, 10:15  
•Lucky Number Sleevin (R) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:45, 10:30  
•Phat Girlz (PG-13) 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10  
•Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 11:30, 12:15, 1, 1:40, 2:25, 3:10, 3:50, 4:35, 5:20, 6, 6:45, 7:30, 8:10, 8:55, 9:40, 10:20  
•Stay Alive (PG-13) 11:35, 1:50, 7:10  
•Take the Lead (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:55  
•Thank You for Smoking (R) 12:05, 2:25, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25  
•V for Vendetta (R) 4:05, 9:20  
•The Wild (G) 11:40, 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8, 10:35

San Francisco

**AMC Van Ness 14**  
1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-922-4262  
•The Benchwarmers (PG-13) 12:25, 2:25, 4:45, 7, 9:15  
•Failure to Launch (PG-13) 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:30  
•Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) 12, 1, 2:30, 3:30, 4:50, 5:50, 7:30, 8:30, 10, 11  
•Inside Man (R) 1, 2:25, 4:30, 7:45, 10:40  
•La Mujer de Mi Hermano (R) 12:50, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:10  
•Lucky Number Sleevin (R) 12:10, 2:50, 5:35, 8:20, 10:55  
•Phat Girlz (PG-13) 12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05  
•Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 12:30, 1:30, 2:40, 3:40, 5, 6, 7:25, 8:25, 9:45, 10:45  
•Take the Lead (PG-13) 12:05, 2:45, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50  
•V for Vendetta (R) 1:45, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35  
•The Wild (G) 12:40, 2:55, 4:55, 7:05, 9:30.

**AMC Kabuki 8**  
1881 Post Street, San Francisco 415-922-4262  
•The Benchwarmers (PG-13) 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 9:55  
•Failure to Launch (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30  
•Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) 12:05, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45  
•Inside Man (R) 1, 4, 7:20, 10:20  
•Phat Girlz (PG-13) 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8, 10:30  
•Scary Movie 4 (PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10  
•Take the Lead (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10  
•V for Vendetta (R) 12:40, 3:45, 7, 10:05

**Bridge Theatre**  
3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-267-4893  
•Kinky Boots (PG-13) 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10.

Castro Theatre

429 Castro St., San Francisco 415-621-6120

Call theatre for movies and times

Cine Theatre

2261 Fillmore Street, San Francisco 415-267-4893

•The Notorious Bettie Page (R) 12, 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:20

•Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (PG)

Embarcadero Center Cinemas

1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-267-4893

•Brick (R) 1, 4:20, 7:20, 10

•Friends With Money (R) 12, 12:45, 2:30, 3, 4:40, 5:20, 7:10, 8, 9:30, 10:15

•Thank You for Smoking (R) 12:10, 1:10, 2:30, 3:30, 5, 6, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50

Lumiere Theatre

1572 California St., San Francisco 415-777-3456

•The Devil and Daniel Johnston (PG-13) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:25

•Shakespeare Behind Bars (Not Rated) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35

•Tsois (R) 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45

Opera Plaza Cinema

601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-267-4893

•Brokeback Mountain (R) 2, 5:15, 8:15

•Capote (R) 2:15, 5, 8

•L'Enfant (R) 1:45, 4:15, 7, 9:30

•Transamerica (R) 1:30, 4, 6:45, 9:20

The Red Vic Theatre

1277 Haight, San Francisco 415-668-3094

•Kung Kong (1933) (Not Rated) 7:15, 9:30.



# Your East Bay Auto Experts

**BERKELEY BOB'S**  
YOUR VOLVO & TOYOTA SPECIALISTS

## Ask the expert:

**Question:** Lately my car has been feeling rough on the road what could the problem be?

**Answer:** The most common cause for rough riding is worn out tires. Have all the tires checked. We see lots of tires purchased at warehouses that have the tread separate when only a few months old. It may seem like you have been buying tires frequently however it may be that you've been buying one at a time which is not a good practice. You could end up with four different brands, different tread pattern tires which causes pull. Try and replace all your tires at one time or at the least two at a time. With our roads, it's a good idea to have the tires balanced and your alignment checked once a year.

Another reason the car may be feeling rough are the struts and shocks. If your car is over 60,000 miles then there will be some wear on these components. Have a professional check them and advise you. The struts are made to last a long time and first exhibit wear around 60,000 miles and gradually continue to deteriorate over a period of many miles. Some technicians feel they should stay good for 150,000 miles. Shocks on the other hand are usually worn out by 60,000 miles and should be replaced. If you carry a lot of weight in your car then replace them sooner. Most of the time when talking struts and shocks it's a comfort, not a safety issue. You drive the car on a daily basis so it's your call.

Worn suspension bushings also contribute to rough riding vehicles. Most bushings are made of rubber and wear based on age not mileage. Again, you should have an expert examine the bushings and let you know. These are usually inexpensive and make major improvements to your car's handling for the least amount of money.

Are you happy with the ride your car provides you with? If not consider having a complete inspection and test drive performed to determine if replacing struts or bushings would affect your car's ride.

I hope this answers some of the questions you have regarding rough riding.

From: Melissa Holmes, Owner, Bob's Volvo-Toyota Specialists

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**NIPPON**  
EUROPEAN MOTORS

## Ask the expert:

**Question:** When do I check the tires and the safety of my car?

**Answer:**

**Tires** - You should check tire pressure regularly, at least once a month. If you don't have a tire pressure gauge it is worth your money to buy one. The maximum pressure listed on tires is NOT the proper pressure! You can find the recommended tire pressure for your tires in the owner's manual or on the tire pressure placard. You should rotate your tires at every second oil change because it will insure that all the tires wear equally. Do you feel vibration at cruising speed? If you feel vibration you should have your tires balanced. There is a safe limit to tread wear; if the tire is worn below this limit it is unsafe to drive. Refer to mechanical inspection results. Uneven tire wear indicates an alignment problem.

Improper alignment causes increased wear of tire and suspension components and poor handling. In worst cases, improper alignment may throw your car into a skid, especially on a wet road. If your car pulls to one side, wanders, or feels unstable on the road, have the alignment checked. A proper alignment will improve your car's handling and make your ride more enjoyable.

**Regular mechanical inspection** - For your safety, I recommend that you have your car inspected at least once a year by a qualified mechanic. I mean not just a visual inspection by one of the fast lube places, but a mechanic that can lift your car and check major components such as brakes, suspension, etc., while having your tires rotated, for example. Many components such as ball joints cannot be inspected visually and require a lift to be properly checked.

Answer: From Tom Inthawong at NIPPON European Motors

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# Movies

FROM PAGE C3

both educates and entertains, reminding us of an important episode in history that resonates today. — R. Myers. (PG: mild thematic elements, not language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. **A**

**"THE HILLS HAVE EYES":** Repulsive is this film is, it's also suspenseful and has something serious on its mind: long-term, irreversible effects of advanced medical testing that resulted in a bunch of mutated, cannibalistic humans who feast on a family that pulls out their deserted corner of the desert. — C. Hewitt. (R: gruesome violence, strong language.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. **B**

**"I AM A SEX ADDICT":** Either Bay Area filmmaker Caveh Zahedi is crazy or daring for making an unvarnished documentary about his addiction to prostitutes. This fascinating but odd experiment will shock you with its sexual frankness and make you laugh a lot. But more than 90 minutes, it remains its welcome. — R. Myers. (R: equivalent of an NC-17 for nudity, sex, drug use and dirty talk.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. **B-**

**"CEASE: THE MELTDOWN":** Three my friends — Manny the mammoth, the sloth and Diego the saber-toothed tiger — head out on a journey to find an ark as an ice dam surrounding their village threatens to explode. There are sound moral lessons for the kiddies, and seeing a always enjoyable rat/squirrel cat chasing after an elusive acorn fun. But the animation is much better than the screenplay. — R. Myers. (G: some mild language and innuendo.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. **C+**

**"INSIDE MAN":** This star-studded heist drama not only saves director Spike Lee from a slumping career, it revitalizes the tired genre. Four robbers, led by Dalton Russell (Clive Owen) take nearly 50 people hostage at a Manhattan bank. But nothing is as it seems. Denzel Washington (the negotiator on the scene). — R. Myers. (R: language, some violent content.) 2 hours, 9 minutes. **A-**

**"OYEUX NOEL (MERRY CHRISTMAS)":** In mining the strange but true tales of Christmas fraternization across enemy lines, writer-director Kristian Caron beautifully captures a moment in time during World War I when the impersonal madness in the trenches ebbs amid a spirit of holiday cheer. — D. Germain. (R: war violence, brief sexuality, in French, German, English and Latin, with subtitles.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. **B+**

**"KING KONG":** A spectacular, but dog-winded — three hours plus! — remake from director Peter Jackson (lord of the Rings). Naomi Watts plays a wonderful damsel in distress, a vaudeville actress who becomes the object of the 25-foot ape's

affection. The creature is a special-effects marvel, who expresses both sympathy and fury as he woos the beauty who will be his downfall. Also great is Skull Island — a tropical nightmare filled with hellish sights and savages. — R. Myers. (PG-13: frightening adventure violence and some disturbing images.) 3 hours, 7 minutes. **B+**

**"LARRY THE CABLE GUY: HEALTH INSPECTOR":** Larry, aka Dan Whitney, drives his madder pick'em-up truck, the one covered in American flag, gun-nut and Hooters bumper stickers, lets his jeans ride too low and lets loose with his trademark red-neck riffs as he tries to solve a series of food poisonings leading up to a city-wide "cook off." — R. Moore. (PG-13: crude and sexual content, and for language.) 1 hour, 29 minutes. **D**

**"L'ENFANT (THE CHILD)":** The first thing we hear in the Dardenne brothers' latest character study is a baby crying. The father, Bruno, is a petty thief who impulsively lives for himself. Given that Bruno exploits young kids to steal for him, he's probably never going to qualify for Father of the Year. But even after his fence casually mentions that there's a hot black market for newborn babies, what Bruno does next is truly horrifying. — G. Whipp. (R: brief language, in French with subtitles.) 1 hour, 31 minutes. **A-**

**"THE LIBERTINE":** In this flagrantly vulgar film about the rude, debauched second Earl of Rochester, actor Johnny Depp runs wild. With his Van Halen-like mane, dirty fingernails and perma-sneer, he makes the lurid goings-on in this filthy 17th-century period piece watchable. Director Laurence Dunmore should have picked up the pace, but he's created a dreary England we rarely see on the big screen. — R. Myers. (R: strong sexuality including dialogue, violence and language.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. **B-**

**"LONESOME JIM":** This quirky and shuffling independent film feature marks another entry in the ever-popular you can and should go home again genre. Casey Affleck, brother of Ben, plays a struggling writer who returns to his Indiana hometown and his wacky relatives. Liv Tyler plays the lone light in this depressed fella's world. "Jim" is as funny as it is cruel, but it often feels like we've been on this road too often. — R. Myers. (R: language, some sexuality and drug content.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. **B-**

**"LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN":** An overly smug screenplay trips up this mistaken-identity thriller with Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, Josh Hartnett and Ben Kingsley. The twists come fast and furious, but the overly clever dialogue and anemic performances from Freeman and Kingsley drag down this crime thriller about a patsy caught in the middle of a mob war. Lucy Liu does brighten things

up, almost to a blindingly fluorescent level. — R. Myers. (R: strong violence, sexuality and language.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. **C+**

**"MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION":** Tyler Perry wrote, directed, produced and scored this sequel to "Diary of a Mad Black Woman." Think of it as a department store: Melodrama on the first floor; gospel sermon on the third. Not to mention fart jokes and sex riffs. But there's a message about self-respect too, and it's hard to ignore. — W. Morris. (PG-13: mature thematic material, domestic violence, sex, drug references.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. **C**

**"MATCH POINT":** Woody Allen takes on a new game and, for the most part, scores. The movie, set in England instead of New York, pays homage to film noir with its dark themes. Jonathan Rhys Meyers stars as a tennis pro smitten with his new, upper-crust friend's fiancée (Scarlett Johansson). The film-school symbolism and tennis metaphors can be a bit much, but that can almost be ignored in a movie filled with suppress and snappy exchanges. — R. Myers. (R: some sexuality.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. **B**

**"MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS":** This mildly naughty and fitfully entertaining comedy/drama finds Judi Dench playing a familiar role, that of an upstart widow who likes to engage in a battle of wits with anyone she encounters. Dench is indeed delightful as Laura Henderson, proprietor of a vaudeville theater where the actresses go nude to buoy business, and Bob Hoskins as the theater manager she hires. But the tone shifts, slapping away the comedy in favor of drama and the resulting fusion doesn't gel. — R. Myers. (R: nudity and brief language.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. **C+**

**"MUNICH":** Director Steven Spielberg creates another masterpiece in this harrowing, fictionalized account of the fallout involved when political retribution enters the global landscape. Eric Bana ("Troy") portrays the head of a secret Israeli team out to pick off the masterminds behind the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre. This powerful thriller, the year's best, asks us to consider the effectiveness — and human toll — of political vendettas. — R. Myers. (R: strong graphic violence, some sexual content, nudity and language.) 2 hours, 44 minutes. **A**

**"THE PINK PANTHER":** This remake of the Peter Sellers classic brings only a few satisfying laughs. The coach of the French national soccer team is murdered, and his priceless ring vanishes. Police Inspector Dreyfuss (Kevin Kline) assigns the case to the country's most inept cop. The idea is for the media to follow the bumbling Clouseau (Steve Martin), thus freeing Dreyfuss to actually solve the murder. — R. Butler. (PG: occasional crude and suggestive humor and language.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. **C**

**"ROVING MARS":** The first half of this large-format film is a peek into the detailed work of a huge cadre of astronauts must finish before the craft can head for Mars — a long-shot trip that one astrobrain likens to "shooting a basketball from Los Angeles to New York and having it go through without touching the rim." Things get even better when the craft lands and begins gathering information. — C. Hewitt. (G) 40 minutes. **B+**

**"RUNNING SCARED":** This savagely gory thriller about Mafia retribution could easily be rated NC-17. Directed by Wayne Kramer ("The Cooler"), it has abusive husbands, a yuppie couple that dabbles in pedophilia, even hockey-puck torture. That said, it's stylish and energized, at times even clever. — R. Myers. (R: pervasive strong brutal violence and language, sexuality, drug content.) 2 hours, 2 minutes. **B-**

**"THE SHAGGY DOG":** In this Disney remake, Dave (Tim Allen) is angling to become district attorney of Los Angeles, and his latest high-profile case — pursuing animal rights "vandals" at the behest of a big animal-testing drug company — may be just the ticket. Dave has to be bitten by a magical dog and become canine himself to discover the truth about the real villains. — R. Moore. (PG: mild rude humor.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. **B**

**"SHE'S THE MAN":** In this modern take on Shakespeare's cross-dressing comedy, "Twelfth Night," Amanda Bynes plays Viola, a high school soccer player who pretends to be her brother so she can play on his soccer team. Mistaken identities, romance and groin jokes ensue. But the movie loses the most important part of Shakespeare: his insight into human behavior. — C. Hewitt. (PG-13: sexually themed jokes.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. **D+**

**"16 BLOCKS":** Jack Mosley (Bruce Willis) is a burned-out veteran New York police detective. After pulling an all-nighter at the precinct, the close-to-inebriated Jack gets one last assignment before going home: Take a petty criminal (Mos Def), a star witness in a corruption trial, to the courthouse. No sweat. But nothing's quite that simple in action-movie land. — M. Tarradell. (PG-13: violence, language.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. **B-**

**"SLITHER":** This "Scream" for the alien monster movie fan is as gory as it is clever. Sheriff Bill (Nathan Fillion of "Serenity") and his old-flame Starla (Elizabeth Banks of "Seabiscuit") battle a carnivorous alien slug that's embedded in the brain of Starla's hubby (Michael Rooker). An army of gooey, slurpy-sounding worm-slug things are eventually unleashed and take over the dimwitted brains of townsfolk. All of "Slither" is silly and sick, but what were you expecting from an alien slug movie? — R. Myers. (R: strong horror violence and gore, and language.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. **B**

**"SOMETHING NEW":** The chemistry

between Sanaa Lathan and Simon Baker sizzles in this sharp, sweet interracial romantic comedy about an uptight L.A. career woman falling for a landscape architect. First-time feature director Sanaa Hamri slips a bit, but the lively screenplay and cast make up for those lapses. — R. Myers. (PG-13: sexual references.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. **B**

**"SOPHIE SCHOLL: THE FINAL DAYS":** This grim and wrenching German film — an Oscar nominee for best foreign film — follows six days in the life of Sophie Scholl, a 1940s German college student who was arrested and prosecuted for her anti-Nazi beliefs. The intense drama is well-crafted and beautifully acted, containing a potent message about the necessity for dissenting voices in society. — R. Myers. (Not Rated; in German with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 57 minutes. **A-**

**"STAY ALIVE":** Attractive twentysomethings get their hands on some unlicensed video game. They play. And they go, one by one, to their final destination. Horror movies are supposed to be scary, but this one is not frightening or affecting or even titillating. — R. Moore. (PG-13: horror violence, disturbing images, language, brief sexual and drug content.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. **D-**

**"STONED":** Longtime British producer Stephen Woolley makes his directing debut with this lethargic drama. An account of the final months of founding Rolling Stones guitarist Brian Jones, who drowned in 1969, the film is a hodgepodge of bohemian decadence, finely observed period detail and an overdose of flashbacks. — K. Crust. (Not rated.) 1 hour, 42 minutes. **C-**

**"SYRIANA":** This relevant, meaty and episodic political thriller ties together multiple narratives to provocatively peer into the world's perilous oil addiction. Director/writer Stephen Gaghan uses a flash-card approach similar to what he did for his Oscar-winning "Traffic." But in his first outing as director, he has fashioned a compelling and urgent film that also frustrates. "Syriana" is just too much of a good thing, overly cluttered with characters to the point of confusion. George Clooney, Matt Damon and Jeffrey Wright head an A-list cast given lines worthy of Shakespeare. — R. Myers. (R: violence and language.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. **B**

**"TAKE THE LEAD":** Antonio Banderas sizzles as a ballroom dancer who tangoes with a group of hard-luck New York high school students. The movie follows the same inspirational footsteps as "Mad Hot Ballroom" and "Dangerous Minds," but what it lacks in originality, it makes up for with spunk. An appealing fresh cast — especially Yaya DaCosta — makes you nearly forgive the clichés. — R. Myers. (PG-13: thematic material, language, some violence.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. **B-**

**"THANK YOU FOR SMOKING":** Big Tobacco spinmeister Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart) is considered a Picasso in his profession. The persuasive Nick is the amoral narrative of this clever, rambunctious satire that skewers all friends and neighbors, from D.C. to Hollywood. The film hurls its daggers at politicians, journalists and corporate America. No one comes out unscathed, including the viewer. — R. Myers. (R: language, some sexual content.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. **B+**

**"THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA":** Cattle rancher Pete Perkins (Tommy Lee Jones) had promised his best friend, Melquiades, that if he died he would transport his body to his small Mexican village for burial. When Melquiades is found shot to death, Pete kidnaps the border patrol officer responsible and forces him to come along on the lengthy trek. — J. Matthews. (R: language, violence, sexuality.) 2 hours. **B**

**"TIBET: A BUDDHIST TRILOGY":** The original version of this meditative 1979 documentary by David Lascelles clocked in at nearly four hours. It returns in a digitally restored, recut edition. In three parts, the film patiently unwraps the details of daily monastic life. Observation and translation is emphasized over explanation or interpretation. — K. Crust. (NR; in Tibetan with English commentary and subtitles.) 2 hours, 14 minutes. **B+**

**"TSOTSI":** This South African Academy Award-winning film is an involving character study marked by acute psychological insight and exceptional understanding of class differences. The title character is a brutal teenage criminal whose life is redirected after he steals a car and discovers a 3-month-old baby in the back seat. — B. Strauss. (R: violence, children in jeopardy, language, substance abuse; in Tsotsi-Taal with subtitles.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. **B**

**"TRANSAMERICA":** In this uneven comedy, Felicity Huffman plays Bree, a pre-op male-to-female transsexual. She is eagerly looking forward to her surgery when she gets a call from Toby (Kevin Zegers), a 17-year-old Manhattan street hustler who's landed in jail and is trying to find his father, whom he has never met, but who had a brief affair with his late mother. — K. Thomas. (R: nudity, obscenities.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. **B-**

**"TRISTRAM SHANDY: A COCK AND BULL STORY":** Laurence Sterne's "The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman," written in the 1700s, has long been considered unfilmable. "Cock and Bull" is about trying to make such a movie — and, for the most part, coming off foolishly in the attempt. Even if you never get half of what this movie tosses about, the half you do get should keep you laughing all the way to the library. — D. Germain. (R: language, graphic childbirth.) 1 hour, 31 minutes. **B**

# Holy Week SERVICES

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OAKLAND

Not Just a Sunday Faith  
Rev. Chandler Stokes, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Marcia Mount Shoop, Associate Pastor  
2619 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612-3199  
(510) 444-3555  
www.firstchurchoakland.org

### Holy Week Services

Good Friday, April 14, 2006  
Tenebrae Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
Revs. Stokes and Shoop presiding  
Special solos, choral, and instrumental music  
Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006  
Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
Romans 8:18-25 Mark 16:1-8  
"Resurrection Hope"  
Rev. Chandler Stokes, preaching  
Special Music, Brass Quartet  
(Child care provided for children ages four and under.  
Children K-5 will remain in worship.)

### College Avenue Presbyterian Church



5951 College Avenue, Oakland  
Ch. Ofc. 658-3665;  
Pastor's Ofc. 547-3053

A Church where God's love and purpose is promoted, regardless of race, politics, age, or church background

HOLY WEEK Offerings  
GOOD FRIDAY  
Fri 4/14 7:30 p.m.  
EASTER SUNDAY  
Sun 4/16 10:10 a.m.  
Meet at Rockledge BART Station for  
Bagpipe Band-Led  
Easter Processional  
10:30 a.m. Worship featuring  
Choir, Organ, Brass, Bagpipe Band  
Medley, Entry of 'Empty Cross,' A  
Message to encourage you to trust  
and follow Christ  
Rev. Bill Beatty, Pastor

Join us as we celebrate Easter at

## PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHURCH

welcoming ~ nurturing ~ serving

The Rev. Dr. William H. McNeill

Senior Minister

The Rev. Scott Kail

Student Ministries



The Rev. Don Ashburn

Associate Minister

Mary Margaret Simeone

Children's Christian Ed.

400 Highland Ave. (enter under arch on Mountain Ave.), Piedmont  
510-547-5700 ~ www.piedmontchurch.org

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14  
• 12 noon Worship Service



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16  
• Worship in the sanctuary  
at 6:30, 9:00, & 10:30 a.m.  
full choir/brass ensemble at 9:00 & 10:30

All are welcome!



### SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

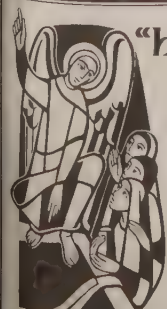
#### GOOD FRIDAY

Noon - 3pm The Passion with Veneration of the Cross  
4:30pm Children's Stations of the Cross

#### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

8:00am New Fire & Exultet, First Mass of Easter  
9:00am Family Service, followed by Easter Egg Hunt  
10:00am Festival Choral Eucharist, Schubert's Mass in G  
with Choir and Orchestra  
11:30am Easter Brunch

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OAKLAND  
114 Montecito Ave., nr. Grand/Harrison 834-4314 www.stpaulsoakland.org  
The Rev. Dr. John H. Eastwood, Rector



"he is risen!...as he said!"

### Celebrate Easter with Us!

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service  
ON OUR ROSE GARDEN PATIO

7:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Festival Services

Zion Lutheran Church  
5201 PARK BLVD + PIEDMONT/OAKLAND + 510-530-4213



# Events

## COMEDY

### EAST BAY IMPROV —

"Tired of the Same Old Song and Dance," Ongoing. 8 p.m. An evening of improvised comedy. First Saturday of each month. \$8.

Pinole Community Playhouse, 601 Tennent Ave., Pinole. (510) 964-0571, [www.eastbayimprov.com](http://www.eastbayimprov.com).

### PARAMOUNT THEATRE —

"The 20th Anniversary Bay Area Black Comedy Competition and Festival Final Round," April 15, 8 p.m. Hosted by 1995 champ Don "D.C." Curry, comedians will compete for \$5,000 in cash, bookings and prizes in front of a crowd of nearly 3,000. \$35-\$50.

2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400, (415) 421-8497, [www.paramounttheatre.com](http://www.paramounttheatre.com) or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

### BERKELEY OPERA —

"Chrysalis," April 22 through April 30. Berkeley Opera, in collaboration with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, presents the world premiere of Clark Supryniewicz and John O'Keefe's opera "Chrysalis." Artistic Director Jonathan Khuner conducting. SUNG IN ENGLISH. The opera takes a dramatic look at cosmetic surgery and genetic manipulation. April 22 and April 28, 8 p.m.; April 26, 7:30 p.m.; April 30, 2 p.m. \$10-\$40.

\$16 to \$40 general; \$20 seniors; \$15 youth; \$10 students. Julia Morgan Theatre, 2460 College Ave., Berkeley. Info: (510) 841-1903, Tickets: (925) 798-1300, [www.berkeleyopera.org](http://www.berkeleyopera.org).

**CAL PERFORMANCES —** All performances in Zellerbach Hall unless otherwise noted.

Krystian Zimerman, Piano, April 23, 3 p.m. Celebrated Polish pianist Krystian Zimerman performs a recital. \$34-\$58.

Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 642-9988, [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY —

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, April 22 and April 23. Nicholas McGegan conducting. Featured artists: Lynne Dawson, soprano; Mary Phillips mezzosoprano; Iain Paton, tenor; and Andrew Foster-Williams, bass-baritone. The program titled "Ode to Joy" includes works of Beethoven and Brahms. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday 7:30 p.m. \$28-\$56.

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

**MILLS COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC —** Concerts take place in the Concert Hall unless otherwise noted.

Iwan Jewelyn-Jones, Piano, April 15, 8 p.m. The program will feature works of Beethoven, Ravel, Franck and Liszt. \$10-\$20.

Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. (510) 430-2296, [www.mills.edu](http://www.mills.edu).

**OAKLAND EAST BAY SYMPHONY —** April 21, 8 p.m. Michael Morgan conducting. Featured soloist: Karla Donehew, violin. The program includes works of Mozart, Stenhammar and Ravel.

\$15 to \$60. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 625-8497, (415) 421-8497, [www.oebss.org](http://www.oebss.org).

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY —**

California Bach Society, April 21, 8 p.m. Suzanne Elder Wallace conducting. The program will feature Claudio Monteverdi's "Missa in illo tempore." \$10-\$25.

2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

**TRINITY CHAMBER CONCERTS —**

"A Celebration of the Music of Walter Gieseking," April 22, 8 p.m. Frank

Johnson, with musicians including flutist Diane Grubbe and others, will present a once in a lifetime evening of Gieseking's chamber and vocal works.

\$12 general; \$8 seniors, disabled persons and students. Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana St., Berkeley. (510) 549-3864, [www.trinitychamberconcerts.com](http://www.trinitychamberconcerts.com).

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERTS —

"Chamber Music," April 14, 12:15 p.m.-1 p.m. Music majors perform chamber music as part of their performance studies. Free.

"Javanese Music and Dance," April 22, 8 p.m. Gamelan Sari Raras performs. Directed by Midyanto and Benjamin Brinner. \$7-\$10.

University of California Alumni Chorus, April 23, 7 p.m. The program titled "It Takes Two" features works by Brahms, Neue Liebeslieder and Orlando di Lasso. Director of the U.C. Choral Ensembles Mark Summer conducting. \$10-\$15.

University Wind Ensemble, April 23, 3 p.m. Music Director Robert Calonic conducting. The program will feature music by Ticheli, Cichy, Grainger, as well as the world premiere of Dale McGowan's "Irrational Exuberance." \$3-\$10.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley, College Avenue and Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-4864, <http://music.berkeley.edu>.

## DANCE

### ASHKENAZ —

Odile Lavault and The Baguette Quartette, April 14, 9 p.m. 8:30 p.m.: Dance lesson. \$11-\$13.

Bruce and Lloyd's Tri Tip Trio, April 18, 8:30 p.m. 8 p.m.: Cajon dance lesson. \$9.

1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525-5054, [www.ashkenaz.com](http://www.ashkenaz.com).

### EIGHTH STREET STUDIOS —

"Dance-a-Rama," April 23, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Join 15 East Bay choreographers for an informal performance marathon in celebration of National Dance Week. Free.

2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. (510) 527-8119.

### HOLY NAMES UNIVERSITY, VALLEY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS —

"Groove," April 15, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. A high-energy hip hop workshop and dance showcase featuring dance groups Funk Beyond Control, Culture Shock Oakland and the Shockcollaboration, Gen2 and D.C. Production Workshop Dancers. \$10-\$20.

Holy Names University, 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland.

### MALONGA CASQUELORD CENTER —

"Social Dance Nocturne," April 22, 5 p.m.-9 p.m. An evening composed of four different one-hour dance classes, from Tango to Chicago Steppin'. Free.

1428 Alice St., Oakland.

**MILLS COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC —** Concerts take place in the Concert Hall unless otherwise noted.

"Four Choreographers, One Connection," April 21 through April 23, 8 p.m. An evening of original choreography by Sonya Delwaide, Melissa Fenley, June Watanabe and Anne Westwick with music by cellist Joan Jeanraud and percussionist Willie Winant. Featured dance artists: Frak Shawl, Yukie Fujimoto, Erin Mei-Ling Stuart and Melissa Fenley's dance company. Director of Music for the Dance Department Judy Rosenberg will perform her original score for "La Voyage dans la Lune (A Trip to the Moon)," as a prelude to the dance performance. \$12-\$15.

Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd.,

## NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

STOCK MARKET REPORT BY PAULA GAMACHE / EDITED BY WIL SHORITZ

**ACROSS**  
1 Cub Calloway catchphrase  
7 Another time  
14 Deep-sea diver's worry  
22 Tiger cat  
23 Not your normal imports  
24 After-tax investment choices  
25 Elevators ...  
27 Decentral  
28 Bar in court  
29 Sounds at doctors' checkups  
30 Reduced by 320 years of the History Channel  
33 Dumb bunny  
35 Diet centers ...  
40 N.Y.U., e.g.  
43 Harbor tower  
44 ... test, given to newborn babies  
45 Plains tribe  
46 Anvils ...  
49 Mice and men, e.g.  
54 Top singer Lavigne  
55 Media of exchange  
57 Stable baby  
59 Cut for a column  
60 Settle, for one  
61 ... example  
63 Short dash  
65 Bunde, in Bari  
66 Caterpillars ...  
70 Chulolines ...  
72 Paris-to-Lyon dir.  
73 Study grant named for a senator

**DOWN**  
2 Outburst from Homer  
6 Ottoman governor  
7 Overdoes it  
78 Very cool, in 50's slang, with "the"  
79 Anno grills  
81 Two caliphs  
82 Like Sartre's "No Exit"  
85 Part of the Coast  
87 W. Coast  
88 Peace, to Pedro  
89 Spanish snack  
88 Demi ...  
91 Race cars ...  
94 Nails ...  
97 Brewery fixtures  
98 Make like crazy  
100 Department that is home to the Parc Astérix amusement park  
101 ... speak  
102 Honey  
103 Embargoes  
104 "Isvic homo" utterer  
107 Computer acronym  
108 Chees out  
117 N.A.S.A. vehicle  
118 Real estate developers  
113 Miniatur's home  
116 Utah files  
117 N.A.S.A. vehicle  
118 Saint, in Portuguese  
119 Cattle  
124 "La exa de" (Degas work)  
126 Make disappear  
127 Folk tales  
128 Singer Anderson of Simon  
129 Ford competitor, although not in sales  
133 Hitchcock specialty  
136 Freight trains

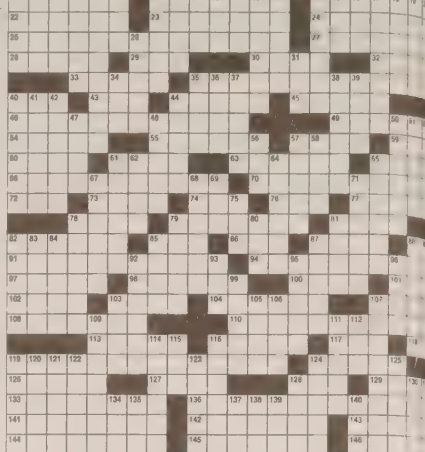
**ACROSS**  
141 Boarding school crowd  
142 First name in popcorn  
143 Typical downtown sign  
144 Rasta's messiah  
145 African pests  
146 Runners' aids

**DOWN**  
1 Julia ... first woman elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters  
2 Cold treats  
3 Ding  
4 John of pop  
5 Place to wear a gown  
6 Polo Grounds slugger  
7 Longtime Vermont senator  
8 ... of Evil  
9 Dress up  
10 Biblical verb ending  
11 Slowing, in music: Abbr.  
12 Visual  
13 Barber brush theme  
14 "To your health!"  
15 Bar, e.g.  
16 Monty ... Vellucio ...  
17 Alternative to reflexology  
18 Rough rug fiber  
19 Heavens: Prefix  
20 Shoemakers' strips  
21 Opera singer  
22 Simon  
26 A to Z, e.g.  
31 ... mo  
34 Center  
35 Self-serving stant  
36 Lamb: Latin

**ACROSS**  
37 Conducts  
38 Cheer at Gillette Stadium  
39 It may be raised at a party  
40 Equilibrium  
41 Inquisition targets  
42 Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori  
43 writer  
44 Make up (for)  
47 Friends and neighbors  
48 Menotti opera character  
49 Prints  
51 Pass  
52 Sticking material  
53 Collar inserts  
56 Tanning lotion letters  
57 Seafood entree  
58 "Members ..."  
61 Carol starter  
62 Highway department supply  
63 Nixon friend Bebe  
64 Dr. Seuss's green eggs and ham offering  
67 Times to remember  
68 Nutrition author Davis  
69 Paine ... (Cannes award)  
71 "S.O.S." "With it, once"  
72 Fisher-Price's owner  
73 Goes on strike, informally  
80 Unlikely pageant winner  
81 Penlight batteries  
82 Science  
83 Author Zora ...  
84 Son of Henry and father of Henry II

**ACROSS**  
85 Scott of "Ocean's Eleven," 2001  
87 Last president of South Vietnam  
88 Orangish yellow  
89 Acne cream  
90 Enthusiastic assent  
92 Violent, perhaps  
93 Poodle's cry  
95 Hauls around  
96 Canadian pump name  
99 Bruce of old films

**DOWN**  
86 Peace, to Pedro  
87 Spanish snack  
88 Demi ...  
91 Race cars ...  
94 Nails ...  
97 Brewery fixtures  
98 Make like crazy  
100 Department that is home to the Parc Astérix amusement park  
101 ... speak  
102 Honey  
103 Embargoes  
104 "Isvic homo" utterer  
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133 Hitchcock specialty  
136 Freight trains



Oakland. (510) 430-2296, [www.mills.edu](http://www.mills.edu)

### SHATTUCK DOWN LOW —

"Live Salsa," Ongoing. An evening of dancing to the music of a live salsa band. The night opens with beginning lessons at 8 p.m. and intermediate lessons at 8:45 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. \$5-\$10.

For ages 21 and over, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-1159, [www.shattuckdownlow.com](http://www.shattuckdownlow.com).

### STARRY PLOUGH PUB —

"Celtic and Dance," Ongoing. Traditional Irish music and dance. The evening begins with dance lesson at 7 p.m. followed by music at 9 p.m. Mondays, 7 p.m. Free.

For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

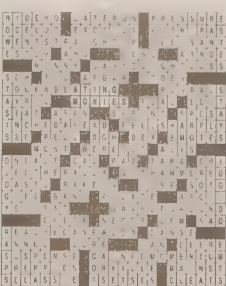
3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 841-2082, [www.starryploughpub.com](http://www.starryploughpub.com).

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERTS —** "Javanese Music and Dance," April 22, 8 p.m. Gamelan Sari Raras performs. Directed by Midyanto and Benjamin Brinner. \$7-\$10.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley, College Avenue and Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-4864, <http://music.berkeley.edu>.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY DEPARTMENT OF THEATER, DANCE AND PERFORMANCE —**

"Berkeley Dance Project," April 21 through April 30. The program will feature "The Gate of Birds" by Margaret Jenkins, "Island Solutions," by Ellis Wood and premieres by Artist-in-Residence Reggie Wilson and faculty choreographers Carol Murota and



Lisa Wymore. Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; April 23, 8 p.m. and April 30, 2 p.m. \$8-\$14.

Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley campus, Spieker Plaza, Bancroft Way and Dana Street, Berkeley. (510) 642-9925, <http://theater.berkeley.edu>.

## OUTDOORS

**BAY AREA RAIL TRAILS —** Ongoing. A network of trails converted from unused railway corridors and developed by the Rails to Trails Conservancy.

**OHLONE GREENWAY —** ongoing. A 3.75-mile paved trail converted from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway. Suitable for walkers, strollers and skaters. It is also wheelchair accessible. The trail runs under elevated BART tracks from Conlon and Key Streets in El Cerrito to Virginia and Acton Streets in Berkeley.

**SHEPHERD CANYON TRAIL —** ongoing. An easy 3.1-mile paved trail converted from the Sacramento Northern Rail Line. The tree-lined trail is gently sloping and generally follows Shepherd Canyon Road. Suitable for walk-

ers and cyclists. It is also wheelchair accessible. Begins in Montclair Village behind McCaulou's Department Store on Medau Place and ends at Paso Robles Drive, Oakland. Useable year round.

Free. (415) 397-2220, [www.traillink.com](http://www.traillink.com).

**BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL —** Ongoing. The Bay Area Ridge Trail, when completed, will be a 400-mile regional trail system that will form a loop around the entire San Francisco Bay region, linking 75 public parks and open spaces to thousands of people and hundreds of communities. Hikes on portions of the trail are available through the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Call for meeting sites.

### ONGOING EVENTS —

**ALAMEDA COUNTY —** "Lake Chabot Bike Rides." These rides are for strong beginners and intermediates to build skill, strength and endurance at a non hammerhead pace. No one will be dropped. Reservations required. Distance: 14 miles. Elevation gain: 1,000 feet. Difficulty: beginner to intermediate. Pace: moderate. Meet-

ing place: Lake Chabot Road main entrance to the park. 7:15 a.m. (510) 468-3582.

**ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA —** "Tilden and Wildcat Bike" vigorous ride through Tilden Wildlife Canyon regional park. Reservations required. Distance: 2,000 miles. Elevation gain: 2,000 feet. Pace: fast. Meeting place: in front of the North Bay BART Station. Wednesday, 7 a.m. (510) 849-9650.

Free. (415) 561-2595, [www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org).

### BICYCLE TRAILS COUNCIL —

**THE EAST BAY —** Ongoing. The council sponsors trail work and Youth Bike Adventure Rides, i.e. Group Rides as well as Mountain Bike Basics classes which include training and handling skills.

### ONGOING EVENTS —

"Weekly Wednesday Ride at Chabot," ongoing. Wednesday, 7 a.m. A 13- to 20-mile ride exp-

See EVENTS, Page 1

# Go For Grand

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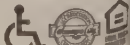
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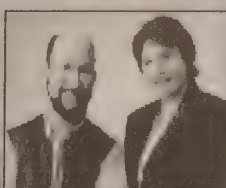
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# Events

IN PAGE C6

around Lake Chabot, with 2,000 feet of climbing. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot across the public safety offices at Lake Chabot. In Castro Valley. Reservations: (510) 727-0613.

Wednesday "Outer" East Bay Hike — Ongoing. Wednesdays, 5:30 a.m. to 6 a.m. of the outer East Bay. Each week, such as Wild Cat, Mt. Diablo, Mt. Diablo, and Joaquin Miller-Redwood. In place and ride location vary. Reservations required. (510) 888-

466-5123, www.btcobc.org.

**COVE VISITOR CENTER** — Ongoing. At Crab Cove, you can see water creatures and go to San Francisco Bay. You can also travel back in time. The goal is to increase understanding of the environmental importance of San Francisco Bay and the ocean ecosystem. Cove's Indoor Aquarium and Lab is one of the largest in the East Bay.

**IAI EVENTS** — "Beach Clean" through April 22. Lend a hand, community service hours, and the Bay shoreline safer for the birds. Bring gloves and wear shoes. March 25 and April 1, 2 p.m.; April 22, noon-1 p.m. 521-6887.

at Las Trampas, April 16, 8 a.m. Hike through chemise and oak for breathtaking views and more. Ages 7 and

upwards, April 18 and April 25, 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Enjoy an exploration of the world and theme related registration required. \$4. 521-6884.

Earth Day Festival, April 16, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Enjoy games, nature exhibits and entertainment. Learn how you can help with planet Earth. At Wash-

ing Lake Chabot, April 23, 9 a.m. Enjoy a physical challenge and explore Lake Chabot's history on this 9-mile hike. Ages 12 and up. Bring a sack lunch and

Free unless otherwise noted; parking will be charged. 1252 McKay Alameda. (510) 521-6887, www.ebparks.org.

**MUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS** — Ongoing. Nestled in the Oakland Hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir House and gardens estate includes the 37-acre Dunsmuir Revival Dunsmuir House, built by coal and lumber magnate Alexander Dunsmuir for his family. Reservations: (510) 521-6887.

amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion.

**ESTATE GROUNDS** — Ongoing. Self-Guided Grounds Tours are available year around. The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public for walking Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Booklets and maps of the grounds are available at the Dinkelspiel House. Free.

Dunsmuir House and Gardens, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. (510) 615-5555, www.dunsmuir.org.

**GREENBELT ALLIANCE OUTINGS** — A series of hikes, bike rides and events sponsored by Greenbelt Alliance, the Bay Area's non-profit land conservation and urban planning organization. Call for meeting places. Reservations required for all trips.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY** — "Self-Guided Urban Outing: Berkeley," Ongoing. This interactive smart growth walking tour of central Berkeley examines some of the exciting projects that help alleviate the housing shortage in the city as well as amenities important to making a livable community. The walk, which includes the GAIA Cultural Center, Allston Oak Court, The Berkeley Bike Station, University Terrace and Strawberry Creek Park, takes between an hour and a half to two hours at a leisurely pace. Download the itinerary which gives specific directions by entering www.greenbelt.org and clicking on "get involved" and then "urban outings." Drop down and click on Berkeley. Free.

Free unless otherwise noted. (415) 255-3233, www.greenbelt.org.

**KENNEDY GROVE REGIONAL RECREATION AREA** — Ongoing. The 95-acre park contains picnic areas, horseshoe pits and volleyball courts among its grove of aromatic eucalyptus trees.

\$5 parking; \$2 per dog except guide/service dogs Through September: daily, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. San Pablo Dam Road, El Sobrante. (510) 223-7840, www.ebparks.org.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SHORELINE** — Ongoing. This 1,200-acre park situated near Oakland International Airport offers picnic areas with barbecues and a boat launch ramp. Swimming is not allowed. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Grove, a group of trees surrounding a grassy glade, is at the intersection of Doolittle Drive and Swan Way. The area also includes the 50-acre Arrowhead Marsh (part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network) and a Roger Berry sculpture titled "Duplex Cone," which traces the summer and winter solstice paths of the sun through the sky.

Free. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., unless otherwise posted Doolittle Drive and Swan Way, Oakland. (510) 562-PARK, Picnic reservations: (510)

636-1684, www.ebparks.org.

**MILLER-KNOX REGIONAL SHORELINE** — Ongoing. A 295-acre shoreline picnic area with a secluded cove and swimming beach, and a hilltop offering panoramic views of the north Bay Area.

Free. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., unless otherwise posted. 900 Dorman Dr., Richmond. (510) 562-PARK, Picnic Reservations: (510) 636-1684, www.ebparks.org.

**OAKLAND ZOO** — Ongoing. The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop as well as the animals in site specific exhibits, which allow them to roam freely. Included are "The African Savanna," with its two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits; the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant), with giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world; "Simba Park," Swahili for "Lion Country," a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for African lions; "Footprints from the Past," an anthropology exhibit showcasing four million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna; "Sun Bear Exhibit," a state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears; and Siamang Island, a state-of-the-art, barrier-free area that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat. Also see the Malaysian Fruit Bats from the Lubea Bat Conservancy in Florida that are now roosting in trees at the zoo. In addition there are special exhibits and events monthly.

**ONGOING EXHIBITS** — "Valley Children's Zoo," ongoing. The three-acre attraction offers a completely interactive experience for both children and adults. The exhibits include lemurs, giant fruit bats, otters, reptiles, insects and more. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Endangered Species," ongoing. An exhibit of photographs about the

most endangered animals on the Earth and what can be done to save them. At the Education Center. Open daily during zoo hours. ONGOING EVENTS —

"Valley Children's Zoo," ongoing. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The three-acre attraction will offer a completely interactive experience for both children and adults. The exhibits include lemurs, giant fruit bats, otters, reptiles, insects and more. Free with regular Zoo admission.

"Wildlife Theater," ongoing. Saturday, 11:45 a.m.; Sunday, 1:45 p.m. On Saturday mornings listen to a story and meet a live animal. On Sunday afternoon meet live animals and learn cool facts about them. Meet in the Lobby of the Zoo's Mad-die's Center for Science and Environmental Education. Free with regular Zoo admission. (510) 632-9525, ext. 142.

\$5.50-\$9; free children under age 2; \$5 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road, Oakland. (510) 632-9525, www.oaklandzoo.org

**POINT PINOLE REGIONAL SHORELINE** — Ongoing. The 2,315-acre parkland bordering Pinole, Richmond and San Pablo offers views of Mount Tamalpais, the Marin shoreline and San Pablo Bay. There are trails through meadows and woods, and along the bluffs and beaches of San Pablo Bay. Visitors can hike, ride bikes or take the park's shuttle bus to reach the 1,250-foot fishing pier at Point Pinole.

\$5 per vehicle; \$4 per trailered vehicle; \$2 per dog (guide/service dogs free). Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., unless otherwise posted. Giant Highway, Richmond. (510) 562-PARK, www.ebparks.org.

**REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK** — Ongoing. The park's 1,836 acres contain a redwood forest with peaceful groves, as well as other evergreens, chaparral and grasslands. There are picnic sites and grassy play areas, with access for disabled persons and a play structure for chil-

dren. Redwood Creek, which runs through the park, contains the world-famous rainbow trout.

\$5 per vehicle; \$4 per trailered vehicle; \$2 per dog; free for guide/service dogs. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7867 Redwood Road, Oakland. (510) 562-PARK, www.ebparks.org.

**REI BERKELEY** — A series of lectures on hikes and outdoor equipment.

"Free Hands-on Bicycle Clinics," through April 30, 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Join an REI bike technician to learn how to maintain your bicycle in excellent working condition. April 2, April 23, April 30.

"Hiking the John Muir Trail," April 18. Jeff Alt offers slides and stories detailing his three-week adventure hiking the JMT with his wife to overcome a family tragedy.

Events are free and begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 527-4140.

**ROBERT SIBLEY VOLCANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE** — Ongoing. East Bay residents have several volcanoes in their backyard. This park contains Round Top, one of the highest peaks in the Oakland Hills. Free. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. 6800 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 562-PARK, www.ebparks.org.

**ROBERTS REGIONAL RECREATION AREA** — Ongoing. Within the park's 82 acres are a heated outdoor pool, bathhouse, playing fields, picnic areas and hiking and riding trails. Sea captains once took their bearings from a towering redwood tree on Blossom Rock here.

\$5 per vehicle; \$2 per dog except guide and service dogs. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Skyline Boulevard, a half-mile north of Joaquin Miller Road,

Oakland. (510) 562-PARK, www.ebparks.org.

**TILDEN REGIONAL PARK** — This park is large and contains hiking trails, a golf course, a miniature scaled train to ride, The Brazilian Building and picnic areas.

**REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN** — Ongoing. Guided docent tours of the gardens, Saturday and Sunday through 2005, 2 p.m. Free. (510) 845-4116, www.nativeplants.org.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** —

"The 28th Annual Plant Sale," April 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Your chance to find native plants including trees, shrubs, groundcovers, perennials, grasses, bulbs, ferns and annuals, many of which are unavailable in the nursery trade.

"Holiday Egg Coloring - Naturally," April 15, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Learn ecofriendly ways to color your holiday eggs and experiment with your creativity. \$3. (510) 636-1684

"Springtime in the Ponds," April 16, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. See babies of dragonflies, phantom midges and possibly newts.

"Tilden Tots," April 19 through April 20, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The outdoor nature adventure program is geared for children ages 3 to 4 accompanied by an adult. Registration required. \$8. (510) 636-1684.

"Turtle Time For All," April 23, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Meet, greet and touch awakening reptiles and learn about the park's resident and native plants.

Free unless otherwise noted. Daily, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Entrances off Wildcat Canyon Road and Grizzly

See EVENTS, Page C9

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• Grilled Tuna & Egg Flavor  
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• Large • Less Active • Active Maturity • Puppy • Small  
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• Regular - 35 Lb • Reduced Calories - 30 Lb  
• Potato & Duck, 30 Lbs

**\$3 OFF** (Our regular price)  
Limit 2 Bags Per Family  
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28 lb Bucket

**\$6.99**  
Limit 2 Buckets  
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**NATURE'S MIRACLE CLUMPING CAT LITTER**  
"Triple Action" Odor Control  
10 Lb Bag

**NEW \$6.49**

**PENN-PLAX CASCADE POWER FILTER**  
MODEL TANK SIZE PET CLUB PRICE  
CASCADE 100 Up to 20 Gal. \$13.99  
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CASCADE 200 Up to 50 Gal. \$20.99  
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39¢ 69¢ \$1.19  
Limit 1 Bag With Coupon  
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20 Lb Bag  
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Effective 4/12-4/18  
Price Valid Only With Coupon

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**FRISKIES FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD**  
• 6 Oz. All Varieties  
• Limit 6 Cans with coupon  
• Limit One Coupon Per Family  
• Effective 4/12-4/18  
• Price Valid Only With Coupon

**29¢**

**FRISKIES FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD**  
• 6 Oz. All Varieties  
• Limit 6 Cans with coupon  
• Limit One Coupon Per Family  
• Effective 4/12-4/18  
• Price Valid Only With Coupon

**29¢**

**FRISKIES FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD**  
• 6 Oz. All Varieties  
• Limit 6 Cans with coupon  
• Limit One Coupon Per Family  
• Effective 4/12-4/18  
• Price Valid Only With Coupon

**29¢**

**FRISKIES FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD**  
• 6 Oz. All Varieties  
• Limit 6 Cans with coupon  
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From the dramatic opening scene of the film *Amadeus*

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# THE DINING GUIDE

## Featured Menu



### Pier 29

Waterfront Restaurant

Seafood/Prime Rib/Steak/Lobster/Cocktail

## EASTER SUNDAY SPECIAL

### Dinner Menu

Served 3:00 p.m. - 10 p.m.

No Price Increase

### Easter Honey Baked Ham

or  
Roast Lamb

Soup or Salad & Dessert

### Lunch

### Brunch Menu

Served 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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### Juanita's

1324 Park Street, Alameda (510) 865-2588

Juanita's has been serving home style Mexican cooking since 1975 to generations of Bay Area diners. Patrons enjoy a margarita or cold cerveza at Juanita's with their choice of delicious Mexican appetizers and entrees. Including everyone's favorite - tacos, enchiladas, and fajitas. AC \$\$ FB W

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Faith Yamato and the chefs of Kamakura present SHARI, the highest quality of rice that envelopes Sushi. The best short grain premium rice available in the USA is used for Kamakura's Sushi. The "Tamanishiki" brand of rice definitely provides the decisive edge in Sushi quality and taste. Following centuries-old Japanese culinary practice, the rice is gently steamed, then seasoned with an aged-vinegar blend, and carefully fanned to cool to achieve the perfect, firm, yet moist texture, pliable but not sticky; there is no shortcut. For authentic, delectable Sushi and original Japanese creations, dine-in, take-out and party catering, visit or contact Kamakura Restaurant, 2549 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, (510) 521-9121. Wheelchair access, accepting Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover. Open for Lunch Mon. - Sat. 11:30-2:30; Dinner served daily 5pm-10pm.

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6118 Median Place, Montclair Village, (510) 482-8282

Chief Henry Vortiede's philosophy of his restaurant, Montclair Bistro, is Metris Cuisine, which he finds is "a synergy between the food on the table, the art on the walls, and the ambience of the restaurant. The result is a feeling of comfort and harmony between the food and the surroundings." The Bistro's cuisine is Creative California with a French Flare and offers gourmet delicacies for even the most discriminating palate. The dining experience is enhanced with a full bar and more than 150 wines and Vintage Ports. Montclair Bistro offers lunch, dinner, Happy Hour and Sunday Brunch. Please visit our ad for hours of operation. Reservations are recommended but not required. Visit [www.montclairbistro.com](http://www.montclairbistro.com).

### Sophia Cafe

1247 Solano Ave., Albany (510) 526-8663

Sophia Cafe is a tiny haven for Midwestern food. Owner Moti Dagan makes entrees and baked goods with a personal touch. For dinner enjoy schnitzel, moussake (sliced eggplant dish with ground beef) or the cois cous plate. Finish with a delightful dessert made in-house. For a limited time, enjoy early bird specials for only \$7.95. Offer valid only with mention of ad from 5-9pm. Take out and catering menus available upon request. Open Sun-Fri 11-9pm.

### La Pinata 3

1440 Park St., Alameda (510) 769-9111

La Pinata 3 has been indulging the Bay Area since 1978 with authentic, delicious Mexican cuisine. In 2005, La Pinata 3 introduced their Taco Bar, offering authentic Mexican tacos prepared the old-fashioned way, with traditional ingredients. In addition to Pinata 3's impressive menu, including Albondigas (meat ball soup), traditional Mexican breakfasts, and the famous Whole Red Snapper, delectable homemade pastes (desserts) and after dinner drinks are not to be missed. Perhaps most impressive about La Pinata 3 is the popular Tequila Bar. Serving the largest variety of 100% Agave tequilas in Alameda, and perhaps the entire East Bay, the tequila bar at La Pinata 3 is guaranteed to turn you in to a return guest. La Pinata 3 is open daily from 7am to 3am, and Happy Hour is from 4-5pm M-F. Weekend Specials and a \$9.50 Sunday Brunch are also available. [www.lapinata.com](http://www.lapinata.com). (Look for La Pinata #6 opening mid-August in Concord with 2 tequila bars!)

### Z Café & Bar

2735 Broadway, Oakland, (510) 633-2905

Offering unpretentious, contemporary American Bistro cuisine amidst a charming and sophisticated atmosphere just like cafés in Paris, Z Café & Bar changes its menus seasonally to capture flavors at their peak. Dining al fresco also can be enjoyed on our patio. Our wine focus is California, but we offer a selection featuring many regional and international favorites. Wine tasting flights are available daily. Our house mixologist stirs up specialty martinis, flavored mojitos, and exciting fruity house cocktails that delight taste buds in the mood for exotic flavors. Breakfast Mon.-Fri. 7-10:30 a.m. Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dinner Wed.-Sat. 5 p.m.-close. Brunch Sun. 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Happy Hour Wed.-Sat. 4-7 p.m. [www.zcafeandbar.com](http://www.zcafeandbar.com)

### ZZA's Trattoria

552 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA, (510) 839-9124

Billed as a "Simple Italian Restaurant" ZZA's may be modest but serves spectacularly tasty fare and is a fun, family-friendly restaurant. Be sure and order the whole dungeness crab roasted in a brick oven, seasoned with cracked pepper, butter, fresh herbs and served over house made trenette pasta for only \$32. ZZA's is affordable, friendly and comfortable and offers a mix of salads, pastas, calzones, and thin-crust individual pizzas; and much of the pasta is made by hand. They're also known for the huge ZZA's sign in back that flashes dancing lights - red and white, framed in green neon. It comes on whenever they feel like it - when somebody has a birthday, when somebody drops a dish and breaks it. The tradition is, one of the servers calls, "Lights, please," and the customers cheer and they clap. Your kids will love it, and you won't have to sacrifice your own tastes to indulge them. House specialties include Maiale, a Niman Ranch spice coated Porterhouse porkchop with apple beurre blanc mashed potatoes and snap peas or the Pesce del Giorno A.Q. Lunch is served Tuesday through Sunday from 11-3pm; Dinner is Sunday through Thursday from 5 to 10pm and Friday and Saturdays from 5 to 11 pm.

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Home Style Mexican Cooking

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PAGE C7

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urs, Thursday, Saturday  
e, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the  
ation Center for a free do-

Waterwise Gardening Tour, third  
Thursday and the following Saturday  
and Sunday of every month, 1:30  
p.m. Free.

Sick Plant Clinic, first Saturday of  
every month, 9 a.m. to noon. A plant  
pathologist and his team of experts  
will diagnose what ails your plant.  
Free.

\$5 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 children  
ages 3 to 18; free on the first Thurs-  
day of every month. Daily, 9 a.m. to  
5 p.m.; closed the first Tuesday of  
every month for maintenance. UC  
Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial  
Drive, Berkeley. (510) 643-2755,  
http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

WHEELER AUDITORIUM AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,  
BERKELEY — "The Banff Mountain  
Film Festival World Tour," April 19  
through April 20, 7 p.m. Experience  
adventure filmmaking at its best with  
award-winning adventure films and  
videos from the 2005 festival in  
Banff, Alberta. \$16.

UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley.

#### POPULAR MUSIC

924 GILMAN ST. — All ages wel-  
come.

Funeral Shock, Blown to Bits, Fata-  
lity, E.M.D.C., April 14. \$6.

Babyland, 8-Bit, Ninja Academy, The  
Mormons, Graffiti Death Camp, April

15. \$7.

Deadfall, Formaldehyde Junkies, I  
Object, Sabertooth Zombie, Gnar,  
April 21. \$6.

Internal Affairs, Blue Monday, Miles  
Away, Panic, Right On, Baader  
Brains, April 22. \$7.

Look Back & Laugh, 108, Lights Out,  
Gather, April 23, 5 p.m. \$8.

\$5 unless otherwise noted. Shows  
start Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.;  
Sunday, 5 p.m. unless otherwise  
noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley.  
(510) 525-9926, www.924gilman.org.

ALBATROSS PUB — Whiskey  
Brothers, Ongoing. Old-time and  
bluegrass. First and third Wednes-

days of every month. Free.

Kurt Ribak Jazz Group, April 22. \$3.  
Shows begin Wednesday, 9 p.m.;  
Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise  
noted. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berke-  
ley. (510) 843-2473, www.alba-  
trosspub.com.

#### ASHKENAZ —

Odile Lavault and The Baguette  
Quartette, April 14, 9 p.m. 8:30 p.m.:  
Dance lesson. \$11-\$13.

Reggae Angels, April 15, 9:30 p.m.  
\$11-\$13.

Urban Achievers, The Castrati, Built  
for the Sea, The Rage, Dear Indugu,  
April 16, 5:30 p.m. \$8.

Bruce and Lloyd's Tri Tip Trio, April  
18, 8:30 p.m. 8 p.m.: Cajun dance  
lesson. \$9.

Jules Broussard, April 20, 8:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.: Dance lesson. \$10.

Caribbean Allstars, April 21, 9:30  
p.m. \$11-\$13.

Wild Catahoulas, April 22, 9 p.m.  
\$11-\$13.

1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510)  
525-5054, www.ashkenaz.com.

DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT —  
Glenn Walters Trio, April 14.  
Steve Heckman and Gini Wilson,  
April 15.

# THE DINING GUIDE

## Featured Menu

## Happy Easter from Café Enrico

875 Island Dr.  
Alameda  
522-0129

### DINNER MENU

**Soup:** Cream of Watercress

Or

**Salad:** Mixed baby greens with Pacific Shrimps and  
Walnuts in House Dressing

### ENTREES

- Roasted Cornish Hen .....\$18.95  
With rice & mushroom ragout
- Monkfish Oscar .....\$21.95  
Dungeness Crab meat, asparagus and Bearnaise sauce
- Dungeness Crab Cake with Grilled Jumbo Prawns....\$21.95  
Tarragon cream sauce
- Grilled Angus Filet of Beef .....\$26.95  
Savory spinach, shitake mushroom & Red  
Wine
- Roasted Rack of Lamb .....\$26.95  
With garlic mashed potatoes and a Thyme  
sauce



### EASTER BUFFET \$19.95

\$9.95 for children under 12

\$7.95 for children under 7  
(10am to 2pm)

#### SALAD

Caesar Salad with Pacific Shrimps  
Tropical Fruit Platters  
Garden Vegetable Salad with House-made dressing  
Chicken Orzo Salad  
Prawn Cocktail

#### BREAKFAST

French Toast with Pecan Syrup  
Honey glazed Ham and Italian Sausage  
Dungeness Crab Benedict  
Norwegian Smoked Salmon Spread  
Texas House-made potatoes  
Scramble Eggs  
Orange-Cranberry Scone

#### ENTREE

Baked Veal Lasagna  
Fried Chicken Salerno  
Prime Rib  
Baked Salmon with Dill-Cream Sauce  
Portobello Mushroom Ravioli with Pesto Cream Sauce

### ASSORTED DESSERTS

**Pier 29**  
Waterfront Restaurant  
Seafood/Prime Rib/Steak/Lobster/Cocktail

**EASTER SUNDAY SPECIAL**

Honey Baked Ham  
or  
Roast Lamb  
Soup or Salad: Dessert or Lunch

**Brunch Menu**  
Served 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Dinner Menu**  
Served 3:00 PM-10 PM

300 29th Avenue, Oakland • 261-1621  
At the foot of the Park St. Bridge in Oakland. Next to the Estuary.  
Plenty of Free Parking. Banquet Facility Available.

#### Café Enrico

Since 1978, 875D Island Drive, Alameda, (510) 522-0128  
For fine Italian dining at its best, visit Café Enrico overlooking the beautiful  
Harbor Bay Lagoon. Full bar service features special cocktails daily with  
exceptional wine selections. From gourmet seafood plates to Old World  
pastas, chicken dishes, sandwiches and even a dieter's menu, Café Enrico  
truly offers something to please everyone. In fact, many guests dine in two  
and three times a week. House specialty steamed (Manila clams and fresh  
seafood cioppino) are not to be missed. *Café Enrico is open daily Sat & Sun  
Brunch is served until 3 pm and Early Bird Specials (12.95) are served Mon-Fri  
until 6 pm and Sat & Sun until 5 pm.* For Reservations, please call (510) 522-  
0129. MC, Visa, AME, handicap access. Casual attire. \$5

#### Katsu Sushi

1465 Webster Street, Alameda, (510) 749-8461  
West Alameda's newest restaurant, Katsu Sushi, invites guests to an upscale  
dining experience with classic simplicity. Chef Sang Kim prepares all dishes  
from scratch and seafood is brought in fresh, directly from Japan. The menu  
is extensive, ranging from an extraordinary selection of sushi and sashimi,  
Udon/Soba, Donburi (over rice dishes), to pasta and an impressive variety of  
sake. Architect Duk Lee has created a dramatic backdrop for guests,  
marrying modern art with traditional design elements. Attention to even the  
most minor aesthetic detail is also mirrored in the elegant presentation of  
Katsu's dishes, offerings that are as much a work of art to the palate as to the  
eye. *Katsu is open for lunch Mon.-Fri. from 11:30am to 2:30pm and open for dinner  
Mon.-Thurs. & Sun. from 5-9:30pm. Fri & Sat. 5-10pm. Reservations recommended.*

#### Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

300 - 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621  
Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29  
Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located  
adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary.  
The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York  
steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The  
theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on  
weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular early bird menu is featured  
daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking.  
*The Pier is open 7 days a week. New business hours: Sun. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.,  
Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner.*

#### Sushi House

2375 Shoreline Drive, Alameda (510) 865-0999  
When it comes to sushi, one place on the island comes to mind. Come  
experience why locals & out-of-towners alike flock to Sushi House. Whether  
you're a fan of modern or traditional Japanese cuisine, Sushi House will  
delight your senses with unique, award-winning sushi creations not found  
elsewhere on either side of the Bay. You've tried the rest. Now try the best! All  
seafood is delivered daily to ensure unrivaled quality & freshness. These  
excellent beginnings are chef/owner James' own creations such as  
"Crazy Horse" - tuna, hamachi, salmon & avocado; "Crazy Monkey" -  
yellow tail, salmon, eel, tobiko and cucumber; & "Dynamite" - yellow tail,  
salmon, tuna & halibut deep fried w/ house special sauce - spicy! Frequent  
Sushi House diners John & Sallie Crittenden agreed that "James is a real artist  
& his sushi is the freshest we've ever tasted." *Sushi House is open nonstop from  
11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday & 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays &  
Saturdays. Plenty of free parking. From an intimate date to a big celebration,  
Sushi House is the hip & trendy place to be in Alameda! AE MC VS \$5*

#### Amarin Thai Cuisine

1332 C Park St., Alameda CA 94501 (510) 748-0296  
For 16 years, we have catered to Alameda with delicious, award-winning food  
and warm service in a friendly atmosphere. Make a normal day, your special  
day, by dining here at Amarin Thai. Celebrate Senior Citizens every  
Wednesday. We recognize and value your patronage and are offering 10%  
discount off your dining experience. Celebrate families every Saturday. Our  
family is very important to us and so is yours! Bring in your family and dine  
with us and receive a 10% off your meal. Our private banquet facility can  
accommodate large parties with great service and scrumptious food. Celebrate  
your holidays at Amarin Thai with Delicious, inviting, and affordable holiday  
planning. We are offering 10% off parties of 20 or more on reservations by  
December 15th.

#### El Caballo

891B Island Drive (Harbor Bay Island), Alameda (510) 521-4032  
Family-owned El Caballo Mexican Restaurant has had a long-standing  
reputation for preparing delicious traditional dishes from scratch using  
nothing but the freshest ingredients of the highest quality. El Caballo is  
famous for their Especialidades De Mariscos (seafood specialties) including  
Paella Estival Catalina, Cioppino Siete Madres, Enchiladas Cabo San Lucas,  
and many others. In addition to delicious seafood entrees, El Caballo offers  
an impressive menu of Mexican favorites to please every palate. The family  
and staff at El Caballo have made it their utmost priority to offer you, their  
guests, a pleasant and relaxing dining experience. You are invited to enjoy  
authentic Mexican dining with a view over beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon.

**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

875 Island Dr., Alameda  
Harbor Bay Landing

**Café Enrico**

**Happy Easter**  
from Café Enrico

**Easter Luncheon Buffet**

**\$19.95**  
**10AM-2PM**

Please Call (510) 522-0129 for Reservation

**AMARIN**

1332 C Park St  
510-748-0278

"Down the Brick Walkway"

**An Alameda Tradition!**

Award-Winning Food - Warm Service

Senior Wednesdays & Family Saturdays

Holiday Banquet Facilities

Catering, Banquet, Dine In and Take Out

**KATSU**

SUSHI  
Lunch

Mon-Fri 11:30-2:30pm  
Sat & Sun 12:00-3:00pm

**Dinner**

Mon-Thurs & Sun 5-9:30pm  
Fri & Sat 5-10pm

(510) 749-8461

1465 Webster Street, Alameda  
Reservations Recommended

**Sushi House**

japanese restaurant & sushi bar

Beautiful Alameda Location Overlooking Water

**Business Hours**  
Sunday - Thursday  
From 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM  
Friday & Saturday  
From 11:00 AM to 10:30 PM

2375 Shoreline Drive,  
Alameda, California 94501  
www.e-sushihouse.com

510-865-0999  
fax: 510-865-2404

Avoid waiting! Fax in your order in advance!

**El Caballo**

**MEXICAN RESTAURANT**

Authentic Mexican Dining  
with view over beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon

**50% OFF**

Purchase one entree and receive 50% OFF  
second entree (of equal or lesser value).  
Offer exp. 4/30/06

891-B Island Dr., Alameda  
TEL (510) 521-4032









MORENO dazzles as Amanda in the Les Waters-directed production of "The Glass Menagerie."

## Glass' full with revival of classic

By Pat Craig  
STAFF WRITER

There is a reason "The Glass Menagerie" has survived, and for more than 60 years. Understand, all you have to see Berkeley Repertory Theatre's stunning revival of the Tennessee Williams classic.

Like many major works of the '40s and '50s, which have dated beyond repair, "Glass Menagerie" has acquiesced to the passing times, revealing new meaning to anyone who will look for them.

Of course, having Rita Moreno playing Amanda doesn't either. Multi-award-winning actress Moreno, probably better known for her music than her acting, did an astounding job of preparation for the role, and it shows. Her performance dazzles, at times with her feminist sensibility, and at other times as the pained Southern belle familiar to those who saw "Glass Menagerie."

Over the years since 1944, Williams wrote the piece, and it shows. Her unusual things to the role of a displaced, dysfunctional family living in a Southern town in an opulent St. Louis apartment. Additionally, Amanda is a faded, razor-sharp magsom who bullies her young son and emotionally damaged handicapped son by insisting that with little effort, they could be the genteel Old South club life she enjoyed (or imagines she enjoyed) she married her television husband, who "fell with long distance" and

### THEATER REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents "The Glass Menagerie," by Tennessee Williams

■ **WHEN:** Tuesdays through Sundays, through May 31

■ **WHERE:** Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2½ hours

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$45-\$59

■ **CONTACT:** 510-647-2949, www.berkeleyrep.org

In many productions, Amanda seems harsh and excessively cruel. She appears deluded and unable to cope with the current situation in her life. Now, however, she seems much more pragmatic, and as much of a victim of her children as they are of her.

Laura (Emily Donahoe), the daughter, now seems much less like the mentally meandering victim and more like a person who has simply refused to take any risks, or make any effort to improve her life. As a result, the role of Jim O'Connor, the gentleman caller (Terrence Riordan), takes on what seems to be a much more pivotal role in urging Laura to make her move. And that makes his tragic truth all the more devastating.

In fact, it's only Tom (Erik Lochtefeld) who remains much like he was in "Menagerie's" origins. He is the Tennessee Williams character in what many view as the author's most autobiographical play. The character is much more subtly drawn, and Lochtefeld skillfully pulls every

nuance out of the increasingly frustrated Tom.

That, actually, is what makes the Les Waters-directed production so strikingly innovative, and offers a wonderful new look at an old friend. All of the actors have examined their characters from different angles, and have managed to take fresh and innovative approaches to the way they tell their stories.

Waters, taking full advantage of the oppressively tight Scott Bradley set and the understated, but eloquent Matt Frey lighting, has given the production an uncomfortably crowded feel. He turns the family apartment into a packed and unpleasant space where nobody can ever completely be off-guard or relaxed.

The set is built inside a metal balcony and fire escape, but instead of being an island of shelter from a cruel outside world, the metal framework outlines a relentless prison where the inmates seem to be living a life sentence, with no possibility of relief or release.

What makes the success of the Berkeley Rep production so much more remarkable is that "The Glass Menagerie" is a fairly frequently produced show, at all levels of the theater chain. Many of the audience members could probably recite whole chunks of dialogue, and a number seemed to be anticipating fondly remembered lines.

But even with that, the production retained a stunning emotional intensity, and threw off sparks of serious human emotion.

Reach Pat Craig at 925-945-4736 or pcraig@cctimes.com.

## Gala

FROM PAGE C12

selection, features a Vietnam vet who, 30 years after a devastating injury incurred in his first month of duty, finds his life turned upside down when he becomes the temporary guardian of a 9-year-old boy. It's witty and poignant, with unforgettable characters. King lives in Brooklyn.

## Luka's

FROM PAGE C12

Around 11 p.m., we slipped into Luka's back room, which was, even above the food, my happy place. A large pool table in the center of the room entertained a lively crew that took turns at Donkey Kong, Centipede, Super Pac-Man and the

■ Elinor Lipman's new novel is the warm and amusing "My Latest Grievance." Her much-loved previous novels include "The Inn at Lake Devine," "The Pursuit of Alice Thrift," "The Ladies' Man" and "Dearly Departed." Lipman splits her time between Manhattan and Northampton, Mass.

■ Returning to give opening comments is Oakland's Joshua Braff, who was featured at the spring 2005 gala. His "Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green"

came out in 2004, and his next novel is expected to be published next year.

If you have questions for the authors, please e-mail them prior to the event to lcarey@cctimes.com, or mail them to Times/Hills Book Club, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8099.

Following the discussion, authors will sign books in the lobby, where dessert will be served. The authors' books will be sold in the lobby before and after the event.

Bay Area funk legend Sugar Pie DeSanto.

Now that's dessert.

Night Writer Jessica Yadegaran profiles bars, clubs and similar hangouts in the Bay Area every other week in Friday TimeOut. Send comments or suggestions to jyadegaran@cctimes.com.

## Obituaries and In Memoriam



### Douglas Swain Carver

Died peacefully in Berkeley at age 59 on April 8, 2006 surrounded by loved ones after a long battle with the side-effects of Hodgkin's-disease therapy that initially saved his life in his mid-20s. Survived by his dedicated, caring wife Terri; loving children Shelley, Emily, Charlotte, and Ryan; sister Laura (& John) Woodworth; many cousins, nieces, and nephews; innumerable friends and colleagues. Son of the late I.E. and Marian Carver, killed in a plane crash when Doug was 17.

Educated at Westfield (NJ) H.S. and The Hill School (PA), where he was an outstanding forward on each school's basketball team; Stanford University, B.A. in both History and Spanish; and Lone Mountain College (USF) for his MS in Clinical Psychology and MPCC license. General contractor's license 1982 and Structural Pest Control Operator 1987.

His varied career included: itinerant odd jobs in Europe and England; bilingual community/recreation worker; patient in lengthy Hodgkins Disease treatment program at Stanford Hospital; director of a psychiatric halfway house; marriage and family therapist, freelance carpenter, founder/owner since 1987 of Live Oak Structural. Known for his commitment to quality, trustworthiness, and integrity. Innovator and leader in the use of non-toxic, environmentally-conscious pest control and construction methods. Designer and collaborator with UC research engineers to prolong the use of building materials. Teacher at Berkeley's EcoHouse, a rehabilitated, resource-efficient demonstration house and garden promoting ecological techniques, at the Building Education Center, and at Berkeley Design Build. Member of professional organizations The Silver Group, The Splinter Group, and Pest Control Operators of California. Deacon of First Congregational Church of Berkeley.

Committed and caring husband and father, and friend. His unassuming strength, vitality, integrity, courage, initiative, curiosity, humor, wisdom, generosity, and support for others irresistibly drew people to him, eliciting the enduring affection and loyalty of so many. He is irreplaceable and will be sorely missed.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 14, in the First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing @ Dana, Berkeley, CA, (510) 848-3696, www.fcgb.org, followed by a reception there. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Carver Children Education Fund, P.O. Box 1979, Oakland, CA 94604, (510) 333-2418.

Margaret Florence Costes  
Born Sept. 11, 1918 in Oakland and passed away peacefully at Regional Medical Center, San Jose, on April 7, 2006. Resided in Alameda for 55 years and was predeceased by her husband, Maurice H. Costes in 2001.

Margaret leaves two children, Robert Costes (Joanna), and Susan Hoffman; three granddaughters and four great-grandchildren. Margaret's life was dominated by her love of family and friends.

Friends and family are invited to attend the memorial service at 5 p.m., Saturday, April 15, at the Unity Church of San Leandro, 501 Joaquin Ave. A reception will follow the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers the family requests gifts be made in Margaret's name to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Joplin, MO.



### Marc Daja Elbasani

10/25/79-3/29/06

Marc Daja Elbasani passed away on Wednesday, March 29, 2006. He was the loving son of Barry and Kathleen Elbasani, and the best friend of his twin brother Colin Daja Elbasani. The cause of death was an undetected heart defect that precipitated an accidental drowning in a swimming pool. It was an ironic death as he was a good sailor, loved the sea, and loved swimming.

He will be remembered as a generous, kind, and sensitive human being who lived 26 years of world-wide travel, filled with adventure and discovery of both places and, especially, people whose company he cherished forever.

He graduated from Berkeley High School in 1998, attended Saint Mary's College in Moraga for two years whereupon he transferred to UC Berkeley's School of Environmental Design to receive a Bachelor of Art in Architecture degree in 2002.

He spent the next few years interning at various architectural practices in the Bay Area.

From the age of three he began a life long love with carousels and, especially, their music. While others rode the wood-carved animals, Marc focused on the historic wind-pipe band organ that led him to a rigorous pursuit of every historic and present day aspect of pipe organ music and instruments here and abroad.

His daily life was filled with architecture, and nights with constructing wind-pipe organs. Ultimately, he combined his design talents, computer knowledge, and love of crafting with wood to create (with the help of a special friend) a new prototype of a wind pipe band organ. A Mozart tune was the first musical piece played and tears were present on the occasion.

As busy as Marc was, he always found time to make people, everywhere, happy with a kind thought, advice or assistance with some project. Marc was not a big-crowd person but anyone who spent any time with him always felt like they were the only person in his life.

His mother, brother and father, as well as his uncle, aunts, cousins, a special friend and countless people he touched with his presence shall miss Marc but take solace in our belief that he is up there already marshalling materials, tools and people necessary to assemble the ultimate wind-pipe organ.

Our family hopes that you all like Mozart.

Kathy, Colin and Barry will miss him as will his Uncles Jerry, Bill and Lee; Aunts Marsha, Sharon, Elaine and Sally; his cousins Barry, Zachary, Kimber, Edira, Roland, Artur, Shpresa, Bilo, Dona, Debbie, Richard, Rita, Carl, Hilary, Carson, Desentila, Bruno, Viola, Blerina, Eva, Ervin, Mirella, Liliana, Besnik, Liliana, Lorena, Wendy, and Ilir; his honorary Auntie Gio and Uncle Cliff; honorary sister, Makiko; and finally his best friend and long time design collaborator, Paul West.

To those who read this and in Marc's own words...

"All the best."  
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in honor of Marc to the Marc Daja Elbasani Memorial Scholarship Fund in the Dept. of Architecture at the College of Environmental Design, Univ. of California, Berkeley. Donations can be made payable to the Marc Daja Elbasani Memorial Scholarship Fund, and mailed to: Dept. of External Relations, c/o Lawrence Lawler, College of Environmental Design, 235 Wurster Hall, Mail Code 1820, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720-1820.

### Franklin LaFond Milliken

January 30, 1935 - April 5, 2006

Frank Milliken peacefully died at home April 5, 2006. He was 71 years old. A life long resident of the East Bay, Frank was born on January 30, 1935 in Oakland. He lived over 40 years in Concord. Frank attended Montclair Elementary, Our Lady of Lourdes, and was a graduate of Piedmont High School. He attended U.C. Davis and earned a B.S. degree in Anthropology at U.C. Berkeley. He was an inventor and entrepreneur and ran many successful businesses including Black Bar Recreation Vehicles, PETE Trade Show and Acorn Products. He received two patents in his lifetime for motor vehicle alarm systems. Frank was president of the Concord/Diablo Rotary Club, serving from 1981-1982. He had a life-long passion for photography, technology, learning and baseball. Frank is survived by his beloved wife of 21 years, Janet; by his children Kevin, Tim, Ryan and Kendra; daughters-in-law Debbie and Stephanie; brothers Joseph, Peter, Barry, sisters-in-law and many cousins, nieces and nephews. No services will be held. Memorial contributions are suggested in lieu of flowers to the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis, 1659 Branham Lane, Ste. F# 127, San Jose, CA 95118; www.coalitionforfp.org

### Marie M. Skeels

Feb. 28, 1918 - March 28, 2006

Passed away peacefully in her family home of 63 years in Berkeley, at age 88. She is preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Edwin A. Skeels. She is survived by her children Karen Vermeys, Julie Buchanan, Diane Nakahara, Jim Skeels and John Skeels and son-in-law Stan Nakahara. Also surviving are her grandchildren Kristi (Erick) Reninger, Jim (Allison) Vermeys, Scott (Robin) Vermeys, Mark (Juliana) Vermeys, Marni (John) Fonseca, Damon Buchanan, Amanda Nakahara, Brian Nakahara, and Taylor Skeels. She is also survived by her two great grandchildren Madison Kneeder and Connor Vermeys.

Marie served as President of the Berkeley Police Wives as well as Thousand Oaks PTA. She also was a member of Hawthorne Branch of Childrens Hospital. Marie and Ed loved to travel, especially with "Bears in the Air" as they followed their beloved Cal Bears around the country.

The family invites you to a Memorial Service celebrating Mimi's life on Saturday April 15th at 2:00 p.m. at Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda in Berkeley.

Remembrances may be made to the American Parkinsons Association or UC Berkeley Athletic Dept.

Writing an obituary is a special opportunity to say goodbye.

Let our FREE obituary planning brochure guide you in keeping those memories alive.

Available at local mortuaries and the Times' offices.

For more information  
Call 925-943-8020

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

and from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

"Job," by Christopher Moore. (\$24.95)  
by Jonathan Kellerman.

"Company of the Courtesan," by Sarah Dunant. (Random House, \$24.95)  
by Allegra Goodman.

"The Golden Bird," by Elizabeth Morrow. (\$25.95)  
by Kate Mosse. (Putnam, \$25.95)

"Night Watch," by Sarah Waters. (\$24.95)  
by Thomas Perry. (Random House, \$24.95)

"The Legacy," by Steve Bellantini. (\$24.95)  
by Gail Gibson. (Penguin, \$23.95)

### Nonfiction

1. "American Theocracy," by Kevin Phillips. (Viking, \$26.95.)

2. "Game of Shadows," by Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams. (Gotham, \$26.)

3. "Marley & Me," by John Grogan. (William Morrow, \$21.95.)

4. "The World Is Flat," by Thomas L. Friedman. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27.50.)

5. "Freakonomics," by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. (William Morrow, \$25.95.)

6. "The Year of Magical Thinking," by Joan Didion. (Knopf, \$23.95.)

7. "Cobra II," by Michael R. Gordon and Bernard E. Trainor. (Pantheon, \$27.95.)

8. "Blink," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Little, Brown, \$25.95.)

9. "Enrique's Journey," by Sonia Nazario. (Random House, \$26.95.)

10. "What Jesus Meant," by Garry Wills. (Viking, \$24.95.)

### Trade paperback fiction

1. "The Mermel Chair," by Sue Monk Kidd. (Penguin, \$14.)

2. "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson. (Picador, \$14.)

3. "Never Let Me Go," by Kazuo Ishiguro. (Vintage, \$14.)

4. "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan," by Lisa See. (Random House, \$13.95.)

5. "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$14.)

6. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown. (Anchor, \$14.95.)

7. "In the Company of Cheerful Ladies," by Alexander McCall Smith. (Anchor, \$12.95.)

8. "Case Histories," by Kate Atkinson. (Back Bay, \$13.95.)

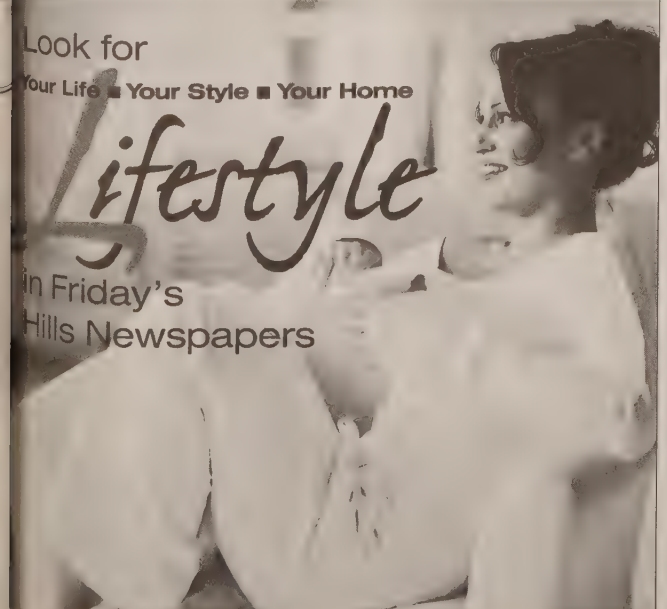
9. "Kafka on the Shore," by Haruki Murakami. (Vintage, \$14.95.)

10. "Runaway," by Alice Munro. (Vintage, \$14.95.)

Look for  
Your Life ■ Your Style ■ Your Home

# Lifestyle

In Friday's  
Hills Newspapers







**BILL MANN**  
Multimedia Notes

## Familiar voices heard up north

PORTLAND — It's always weird to come to another city and hear a familiar voice I know from Bay Area radio. And on my latest jaunt to the Pacific Northwest, I've heard quite a few.

Here in Oregon, I again heard the distinctive tones of erstwhile longtime KNBR newsman Mark Provost, who left after the S.F. station went to an all-sports format seven years ago. Provost ended up at Portland newstalk station KXL-AM as an anchor and as KXL's statewide news affiliate coordinator.

That didn't work out, partly, Provost told me then, because KXL owner Paul Allen, the Microsoft billionaire, insisted on making KXL's news department a publicity arm of the NBA's Portland Trailblazers, an outfit Allen also owns.

Last week, I heard Provost's big voice again, but on a competing newstalk station in this Oregon city, KPAM-AM. I then heard the voice of another longtime Bay Area radio personality, Tom Parker, who's now a talk-host on KPAM here after being morning personality on a Portland music station for years. He was known as "Big Tom" Parker when he was morning man on San Fran's K-101, now called "Star-101."

Parker's accomplished what many aging DJs try to do but few achieve — transitioning into talk.

Up in Seattle, I always catch another voice familiar to Bay Area listeners. Dave Ross' wry commentaries on the CBS Radio Network are heard nationally, here on KCBS.

Ross lives in Seattle, and does a weekday talk show on newstalk KIRO. There's not a better talk host in the country. Ross' interview on KIRO last week with the Church of Scientology's top spokesman was a gem:

Ross never insulted or tried to embarrass the guy — that's not his style (and being nonconfrontational in today's deplorable world of talk radio is unusual). And unlike other talk hosts, Ross actually knew what an E-meter was (it's one of church founder L. Ron Hubbard's favorite inventions; it's used to ascertain the "spiritual state" of a subject).

Speaking of familiar voices, the auditioning co-host of KIRO's 9 a.m. to noon talk show — a spot Ross formerly held before his unsuccessful bid for Congress last fall — is Ron Reagan. The ex-president's entertaining son is doing well in his tryout.

Reagan offered his own bemused take on Scientology the other morning, asking for callers who'd been recruited by the church. On another show, the ex-Republican president's son was eloquent in his defense of Sen. Hillary Clinton the other morning in a show about powerful men taking shots at "uppity" powerful women.

The topic followed some idiotic comments made about Hillary to Chris Matthews by the disgraced Tom DeLay. Air America's Al Franken also replayed DeLay's comments.

**TAKE OUT, EH?** But by far the most amusing thing I saw flipping around the dial up here recently was a TV news report out of Victoria, B.C.

It seems that a 25-year-old Victoria man was vacationing in Costa Rica when he was accosted and knocked out by strangers. He woke up in a local hospital with a sore jaw and sore ribs — and was missing a kidney. "I think it was stolen, eh?" he told CBC News.

The hospital insists the young Canadian was kicked in the ribs and suffered kidney damage so severe the kidney had to go.

"I think it's organ theft," said the youngster's mom. "That's an organ that can heal, eh?"

A government health official warned his countrymen that organ theft overseas has become increasingly common.

And you thought losing a few traveler's checks would ruin your vacation.

Reach Bill Mann at [Newsmann@sonic.net](mailto:Newsmann@sonic.net)

## Luka's: One-stop eating, drinking, dancing

**D**ON'T KNOW about you, but I find the restaurant-club hybrid to be a creation of sheer genius. Think about it: Your taste buds get their groove on, and your booty follows. With perhaps an adult beverage — or three — in between.

**NIGHT WRITER**  
Jessica Yadegaran

Luka's Taproom & Lounge has got this symbiosis down. On Saturday night, my friend Julie and I grubbed on Luka's Belgian fries with a trio of yummy dips, fabulous duck confit and a gnocci that put Trader Joe's frozen variety to shame. (Sorry, Joe, you're usually da man.)

This is a critical point in this column. I've been talking to many like-minded women of late and we all need you, the men reading this, to know something. We love good food. It is very important to us.

Somewhere around age 25, sometimes younger, the lady mammal enters a foodie phase that controls several, if not all, the receptors in her brain. Be it the duck confit at Luka's or the vegetarian burrito at Cancun in the Mission District — yes, it's the best burrito in San Francisco — food makes us happy. Very happy. Contrary to popular belief, it's not just dessert.

So, as I was saying, Julie and I took our happy bellies to the bar, slinking through Luka's narrow and hip-hop-happenin' dining area filled with funky art on its blue walls. We ordered up several cocktails, among our favorites the East Bay Iced Tea — not as brass as Long Island's — and the Besame Mucho, Godiva chocolate liqueur, Baileys Irish Cream, vanilla vodka and a Hershey's kiss.

Luka's serves no fewer than 16 beers on tap, including several of the Belgian variety and



**DJ TIM DIESEL** spins hip-hop, reggaeton and funk at Luka's Taproom & Lounge in Oakland.

### LUKA'S TAPROOM & LOUNGE

■ **WHERE:** 2221 Broadway, Oakland.  
■ **HOURS:** Thursdays through Saturdays until 2 a.m.; Mondays through Wednesdays and Sunday until midnight.  
■ **CONTACT:** 510-451-4677, [www.lukasokland.com](http://www.lukasokland.com).  
■ **PARKING:** 18-car parking lot (imagine that!) and plenty of meters.

the very hard-to-find St. Bernardus, the syrah of ales. At 10 percent alcohol by volume, it tasted like creamy wine and filled me up like a steak.

At the bar, we took in the hockey game and the scene. It was after 9 p.m. at this point,

■ **COVER CHARGE:** \$5 before 11 p.m. and \$10 after on Fridays and Saturdays.

■ **ATMOSPHERE:** Dimly lit taproom meets art, Motown and pinball.

■ **CROWD:** Diverse mix of urbanites booty-bumpin' with fellow beer lovers.

■ **NASTOIDS:** A few.

■ **BARBIES:** Urban Barbies.

■ **GIN & TONIC RATING:** 5.

■ **MOJITOS?** Who cares? There are 16 beers on tap.

and the nastoids established themselves with looks up and down. Julie and I gabbed and giggled, while the room's growing presence of sistahs was still no match for the male-dominated space — we estimated a good 70:30. Still, we decided

Luka's has more diversity than a high school diversity assembly, what with the African-American athletes, the Ladies Night clans and the indie-rockers.

By 10:30 p.m., I saw a white indie boy and a hot black woman getting their ba-dunk-da-dunk on in the middle of Luka's dance floor, which is to the left of the bar. Any pretension or attitude melted into the dark red walls. High above, funky paper lanterns set the mood. The DJ spun hip-hop, reggaeton and all things new and old-school funk. Even the art on the walls — bright iconic pieces reminiscent of Lichtenstein — is accessible. Let's put it this way: If I fell in love with a painting, I could actually buy one.

See LUKA'S, Page C11



**A FLY WHEEL** illustrates different stages of a fly's development in the "CSI: Crime Scene Insects" exhibit at the Lawrence Hall of Science.

## Explore critters' role in crime scenes

**Why it's cool:** If you're a die-hard "CSI" fan, there's no finer way to spend a day than channeling crime scene investigator and bug man Gil Grissom at the Lawrence Hall of Science. Rich in maggots, flies and corpses, the science museum's new "CSI: Crime Scene Insects" exhibit was curated by Grissom's real-life inspiration, forensic entomologist M. Lee Goff.

There are life-size "crime scenes," hands-on exhibits, real field and lab equipment and, of course, bugs galore — or, as Gil would call them, "key witnesses."

**What kids like:** Beetles devouring flesh from a skeleton? What's not to like? All that weird "you can use larvae to determine time of death" stuff from the television show is real. This exhibit explains how and why it works, and gives teens and non-squeamish youngsters (and their parents) a chance to test it out for themselves on model crime scenes.

### THE BASICS

■ **WHERE:** Lawrence Hall of Science, Centennial Drive, UC Berkeley.

■ **HOURS:** Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ **TICKETS:** \$9.50 for adults, \$7.50 for students and seniors, \$5.50 for preschoolers. Planetarium tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for kids.

■ **CONTACT:** 510-642-5132 or [www.lawrencehallscience.org](http://www.lawrencehallscience.org).

What parents like: The exhibit makes science not just palatable — if you can call something that involves maggots palatable — but very, very cool.

And admit it, you always fancied yourself in the role of the urbane "CSI" lead.

**Squeamish?** Not to worry. If the maggots are too much for you, the museum's beloved dinosaurs beckon. Check out the giant T. Rex, the vicious velociraptors, and dotting Maiasaura dinosaurs and their babies. The planetarium performs its usual stargazing, too, with week-end shows at 1, 2:15 and 3:30 p.m.

**Afterward:** Grab a snack at the museum's Bay View Cafe, which serves salads, sandwiches and desserts. The kids' menu includes pizza and hot dogs — both the meat and tofu varieties. Or wander down the hill to Telegraph Avenue's eclectic cafes, pizza-by-the-slice and ethnic eateries.

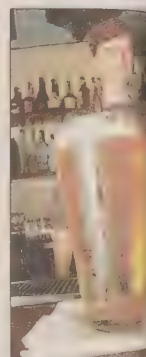
**Parking tips:** Bring quarters (or small bills) for the museum's

pay parking lot. Make a note of your parking stall number when you get out of your car — the toll-taking machine will ask for it. Or, take AC Transit from the Berkeley BART stop.

**P.S.:** The "CSI: Crime Scene Insects" exhibit runs through May 29. "The Big Dinos" run has been extended through May 7.

**And one more last thing:** We don't usually tout museum memberships, but this one may be the deal of the century. A family membership costs \$65, single ticket admission for a family of four is \$34 — you do the math. Plus, that Lawrence Hall pass will also get you a year's free admission to the California Academy of Sciences, the Exploratorium, Chabot Space & Science Center, Zeum, the Lindsay Wildlife Museum and 20 other California science spots.

— Jackie Burrell, staff writer



**CARE FOR A BEER?** offers 16 beers on tap (more in bottles), plus a selection of specialty drinks.

## Book club author coming

Tickets for the Times/Hills Book Club Gala are now on sale. The gala is one of the two rarest affairs sponsored by newspapers and held at the regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek.

Last fall, another added to accommodate demand for the galas are hosted by the Book Club founder.

The gala, which is out quickly, features reading from their work (talking), followed by a discussion moderated by

The upcoming author is Nick Arvin, whose "The Green Agony of War" was the most featured Times/Hills selection. The searing young farm boy's experiences in France at World War II has been with classic war stories. "Red Badge of Courage" lives in Denver.

■ Mark Allen Cunningham, whose "The Green Agony of War" takes place mid-19th century in a mining town in what is now Antioch. This gritty fiction leads insight into the life of Contra Costa's early lived. Cunningham lives in Pleasant Hill but near Portland, Ore.

■ Dave King's "The Ha Ha," our current

See GALA, Page C11

### IF YOU GO

■ **WHAT:** Times/Hills Book Club Gala  
■ **WHERE:** Hoffman Center for the Arts, Locust Street Drive, Walnut Creek  
■ **WHEN:** 7 p.m. April 14  
■ **HOW MUCH:** \$22  
■ **CONTACT:** Tickets available at the theater, call 925-938-1234 or visit [www.hillscenter.org](http://www.hillscenter.org)



## cars.com

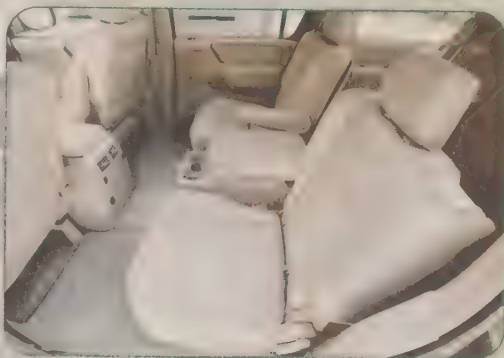
Section D

BY TOM KEANE  
MOTOR MATTERS

**The Finder**



MOTOR MATTERS



**THE INFINITI QX56**, left, offers optional second row captain's chairs, above, as an option. The steering wheel, right, has leather, wood and aluminum trim.

## KEANE ON WHEELS

Power and amenities are not the only areas where this vehicle excels; the ride is very comfortable. I'm told it has double-wishbone front suspension with stabilizer bars, plus an auto-leveling suspension and speed-sensitive rack-and-pinion steering. What I enjoyed was the combination of that equipment in action. The ride was firm yet comfortable. Best of all, I felt secure while pushing the vehicle over familiar winding roads.

**INFINITI QX56**

Vehicle Type	Seven-passenger, four-door, all-wheel drive sport utility vehicle
Suggested Retail	\$52,550
Price As Tested	\$54,800
Engine Type	32-valve DOHC V8
Horsepower	315 @ 4,900 rpm
Torque	390 @ 3,600 rpm
Transmission	Five-speed automatic
Wheelbase	123 inches
Height	78 inches
Curb Weight	5,631 pounds
Fuel Capacity	28 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 13/14

ple didn't fall short in this area. This SUV has the standard supplemental curtain airbags for side impact and rollover protection for all three rows. It also has dual-stage front supplemental airbags. It is built with zone body construction with

This vehicle costs \$54,800, and gets 13 miles per gallon city, 18 mpg highway.

## INSIDE

Classic Classics .....Page 2  
She's Freewheeling .....Page 2  
Auto Doctor .....Page 2

Looking for new wheels?  
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different makes and models.

[illegible]

†MSRP. Excludes government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge, and any emission testing charge. All vehicles subject to prior sale. Ad expires 7 days from date of issue.



# Get idle problem fixed quickly to avoid further damage Appeal of '66 Dodge Charger

BY JUNIOR DAMATO  
MOTOR MATTERS

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 1984 Honda Accord with a 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine. The cold idle speed revs high at 3,500 rpm. I was told the problem is with a valve that controls idle speed revs up too high. The engine also developed a rough idle. The mechanic said the parts required to repair the fast idle are expensive. What are your thoughts? — Greg

**Dear Greg:** Get the fast idle problem repaired right away. The high rpm will damage the engine and catalytic converter, not to mention the high gas use. The rough idle can be a fuel, vacuum or mechanical problem. Whatever it is, the car should be checked immediately.

**Dear Doctor:** My father gave me an article you wrote a few months ago. You answered a reader's question about switching over to synthetic transmission fluid in the automatic transmission. You advised not to switch because of friction capabilities. As an Amsoil dealer I disagree with your opinion. Not all oils are created equal. I have used Amsoil synthetic transmission fluid in my vehicles for many trouble-free years. — Steve

**Dear Steve:** We service 20 to 30 vehicles of all makes and models every day. I give the advice that works for my customers and myself. Unlike some who write a Q&A column, I work daily in the shop. I will stand by my reply in not recommending full synthetic transmission fluid on the average automatic transmission. Products not recommended by the vehicle man-

## AUTO DOCTOR

ufacturer while under warranty can void the warranty.

**Dear Doctor:** I live in New York and own a 2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee. I went to the dealer for an oil and filter change and also asked them to replace the battery. The service advisor suggested that the throttle body and fuel injectors be cleaned. A day or so later the "check engine" light came on. The dealer said the throttle position sensor was at fault. They replaced the throttle position sensor and the light has not come back on. I approached the dealer and he said the "check engine" light coming on was not connected to the throttle body cleaning. — Tony

**Dear Tony:** In some cases of throttle body cleaning, the throttle position sensor can be damaged if the cleaner gets into the actual sensor. This is something you may want to take up with the dealer. You also have to remember the Jeep is four years old and (since you live in New York), has been through both hot and cold climates.

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 1995 Buick wagon. Sometimes when I try to start the engine, the electronic pass key lights up on the dash and the engine will not turn over. I have to wait for the light to go out before the car will start. I have tried the second key and still have the same problem. I think it has something to do with the factory anti-theft system. — Tony

**Dear Tony:** The most common

problem with the GM electronic pass key anti-theft system is the ignition cylinder. For testing purposes go to your local repair shop and have the technician check the resistance in the ignition key pellet. Then ask him to install a resistor in the wiring at the lower part of the steering column, thus eliminating the ignition cylinder. Remember this is for testing only. This will bypass the electronic pass key's anti-theft feature. If this "test" resolves the problem, then the ignition cylinder will need replacement.

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 2003 Lincoln Town Car. On two occasions I have brought the car to the Lincoln dealer for poor radio reception and static. The dealer said they could not duplicate the problem. On my way home I stopped at a radio shop and was told the problem was a faulty rear window antenna. I called the Lincoln dealer and they said one of their certified technicians would have to diagnose the problem. I wrote to Lincoln and did not get a reply. What is my next step? — Bill

**Dear Bill:** A quick look on our computer-based Alldata and Identifix shop programs shows Technical Service Bulletin No.03-7-6 referring to your problem. There is an upgraded antenna kit and antenna module (No.4w1z-19g323-aa). The installation takes 2.8 hours. Some will require just a harness replacement (No.3w1z-18k891-ba). Bring this article to the dealer with you. This information is also available to the dealer online.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347.

BY VERN PARKER  
MOTOR MATTERS

Ever since Louis A. Jaeger spent his teen-age years working at Mr. Norm's Grand Spaulding Dodge in Chicago, he has been hooked on Dodge automobiles.

At the time, of course, he knew he couldn't afford any of the new cars. But by the 1980s he had both the wherewithal and the desire to acquire a muscle car — naturally a Dodge.

The car he sought had to be powerful, but not overly so, and it couldn't be a rust bucket. It had to be nice, but not so nice that he couldn't drive it on the street. He knew what would satisfy his needs; he just had to find that elusive car.

In the autumn of 2004, Jaeger learned that an auto museum in Volo, Ill., was selling some cars, one of which he had seen years earlier: a 1966 Dodge Charger. He went to investigate and discovered this particular Dodge was exactly what he had been looking for during the last two decades.

"It's a nice original driver," he says. At a hair less than 17 feet long, the Dodge had been on display at the museum with the odometer registering about 84,000 miles. The 3,499-pound vehicle is powered by a 383-cubic-inch V8 engine crowned with a four-barrel carburetor that helps the engine develop 325 horsepower. Only the Hemi engine was more powerful in 1966.

## CLASSIC CLASSICS

The all-original Dodge has a dual-exhaust system, as well as a positraction rear end. Records indicate that it sold new for a base price of \$3,122.

In 1966, Dodge built 37,344 Chargers which were offered in a one-model series rolling on a 117-inch wheelbase supported by 14-inch tires. The Charger was created by grafting a stylish fastback onto a Coronet body concluding in wall-to-wall taillights.

After negotiating with the folks at the museum, Jaeger became the new owner of the 1966 Dodge Charger. In November 2004, his daughter-in-law drove him to the museum where he took possession of the car — and then the excitement began.

He fired up the long dormant engine, and with his daughter-in-law trailing him as insurance, he motored home the 45 miles to Sugar Grove, Ill., in his muscle car with absolutely no trouble.

Once he had his treasured Dodge home he went over the entire car to ensure that everything was perfect. He was happily surprised when all he found were a few burned-out light bulbs that needed to be replaced.

The maroon interior of the car shows almost no wear. Unusual is the fact that such a long car — at

6.25-feet wide — is equipped with only four bucket seats. The interior longitudinally is divided into two sections, one on either side, with all four seats entered in maroon vinyl. The carpet beneath the huge windows was sun-damaged and had to be replaced, as did the front steering wheel.

Jaeger is pleased that the sheet on his Dodge Charger is that it left the factory equipped with a factory-installed air conditioner, under-the-dashboard radio and an original 6,000-rpm tachometer. He laments the stopping chores are due to the manual drum brakes.

Another feature Jaeger is happy to have are the four in front of the driver that curate information, including a 150-mph speedometer, odometer now showing 84,000 miles more than 85,000. Jaeger drives the Dodge sparingly on fair weather days.

"The gas mileage ain't bad," Jaeger reports, "with 12 mpg on highway is the best I can get."

Jaeger has installed a Edelbrock air cleaner just in case the engine bay looks better. He has kept the original wheels replaced in a few minutes.

"It doesn't leak a drop of oil," he says, "and there's never a smoke."



IN 1966, DODGE BUILT 37,344 Chargers which were offered in a one-model series rolling on a 117-inch wheelbase supported by 14-inch tires; and it sold new for a base price of \$3,122.

## Toyota's road to the top could be a struggle

BY MICHELLE KREBS  
MOTOR MATTERS

CNW Marketing Research, an automotive research firm in Bandon, Ore., recently raised a topic that I have been thinking about for some time. In its latest monthly newsletter, the firm listed 15 issues facing Toyota.

The Japanese automaker assuredly is marching toward capturing the title of No. 1 automaker in the world, overtaking General Motors. It may be this year, it may be in the next few years, but it surely will be before the decade ends.

It struck me, however, that it would be no cakewalk. For starters, Toyota's competitors are determined not to roll over and play dead.

That is particularly evident on the environmental and hybrid fronts. Automakers have joined forces in an effort (unofficially) to block Toyota from world domination. DaimlerChrysler and BMW joined GM to cooperatively develop hybrid technology. Their progress will be reported this spring. Ford reportedly is considering joining the trinity, as it gears up to produce 250,000 hybrids a year by the decade's end. Other Asian automakers are said to be considering signing up as well. Competitors don't want Toyota dominating hybrid technology, especially battery production. (Ford already has accused Toyota of deliberately withholding battery production from Ford.)

Another front quietly brewing against Toyota involves E85, an ethanol-gasoline combination, also called flex-fuel. Should E85 catch on, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler would have a leg up, having already produced millions of E85-capable vehicles. E85 is gaining the support of the U.S. government, members of both sides of the congressional aisle and some environmentalists, accord-

## SHE'S FREEWHEELING

ing to Washington, D.C. sources.

Surveys show Americans rank importing less foreign oil higher than environmental concerns. Toyota officials, meantime, have been defensive about praise regarding E85 — and any negative charges against hybrids.

CNW's list of 15 issues generally falls into categories, a major one being the Koreans. Korean automakers Hyundai and Kia are attacking Toyota "from a second front," the report notes, introducing vehicles directly competing with Toyotas, but "at significantly lower prices and with near-Toyota quality" and naming their competitor in their ads. Case in point is the recently introduced Hyundai Azera, aimed squarely at the Toyota Avalon. Edmunds' Inside Line picked the Azera over the Avalon in comparison evaluations.

Toyota faces an age issue, being seen as the Buick of the Asian brands. "Younger consumers are going through a phase of 'not my father's Camry' just as the 1970s and 1980s youth market went through the 'not my father's Oldsmobile,'" noted the CNW report. The average age of Camry drivers is over 48, compared to Hyundai's 39. The report went on: "Younger consumers see Toyota as a brand for older drivers, lacking distinction and peer approval."

Even Scion, despite its sales success, is attracting older buyers. The average buyer age for the boxy Scion xB has climbed dramatically because over age 65 drivers find it a perfect low-cost, roomy, fuel-efficient lifestyle vehicle.

Not every Toyota is a hit with key audiences, including the Matrix and the current Tundra pickup. The Tundra is aimed at the "appearance" segment, not the macho rancher/ farmer, towing, con-

tract crowd, a problem being addressed with the next-generation Tundra.

The women's market, the report notes, is becoming less practical and more emotional, an area in which Toyota lags. The Ford Fusion has a 55 percent female primary driver penetration, and of them, approximately 40 percent had a Toyota on their shopping list, according to CNW studies.

Economics play a role as well. The Internet has made consumers aware of competitive pricing, competitive features and competitive quality/safety. The public assumes Toyota scores highest on all counts. "Mystique and reality collide. This was the undoing of VW in 2002-2005," notes CNW. They also recognize repair costs are higher.

"General economics have seen household incomes rise while discounted and distinctive (fashion statement) products now appeal to all income groups. That pushed the high-line Camry intenders into Lexus (and other near-luxury) models much akin to what happened to Ford's Taurus audience," the report says.

The incentive war and GM's price cuts have put Toyotas at a price disadvantage, by thousands. The report noted that despite Toyota's market share gain last year, North American financial returns were flat. At the same time, Toyota's broadening product line has forced higher advertising spending, and dealers are pressuring Toyota for deeper discounts because of local competitive offerings.

Despite these challenges, CNW sees no decline in Toyota sales. The firm concludes that "unlike the Big Three past and present, Toyota recognizes at least most of these issues and is actively confronting them." Indeed, Toyota is No. 1-bound; now it is only a matter of when and how they manage the issues that confront them.

## Confused about car care? Some guidelines to follow

NUI

Being proactive about vehicle maintenance will not only keep your vehicle in good condition, but save you time and money as well. Here are some guidelines for what to check, and when, from the experts at Firestone Complete Auto Care:

- Every other fuel fill-up: engine oil and washer fluid.
- Every oil change: antifreeze, air filter and battery.
- Monthly: belts, brake fluid, hoses, power steering fluid, tire pressure, tire tread depth and overall condition, and transmission fluid.
- Every six months: wiper blades.
- Annually: exhaust system.
- Replace when out or worn: lights, shock absorbers.
- Refer to vehicle owner's manual: change oil, rotate tires.

Experts also recommend that drivers keep an emergency kit in their vehicles. This too can be confusing, as people don't always know what to include in an emergency kit.

Here are a few items Firestone Com-

plete Auto Care suggests you have to help prepare for unforeseen circumstances on the road:

- Jumper cables
- Flashlight and batteries
- Reflector
- Protective gloves
- Toolkit
- Flares and matches
- Gallon of water
- Nonperishable food
- Portable air compressor
- Auto Club membership card

In the winter months: a shovel, bag of kitty litter or sand and a blanket.

With a basic car care checklist to help keep your vehicle running well and a comprehensive vehicle emergency kit, you can drive with confidence knowing that you'll be prepared for any "bump in the road."

Trisha Hessinger, an automotive education specialist and former racecar driver, is a national spokeswoman for Firestone Complete Auto Care's award-winning Car Care Academy program. For details on the Car Care Academy program, visit [www.MasterCareUSA.com](http://www.MasterCareUSA.com).

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# Training's the key to safer teen driving

BY ROYAL FORD  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Teenage drivers are likely to be something innocently risky, but not tragically stupid. Before we argue about whether they should be licensed at 16 or 18 years old, it is important to understand that at whatever age they are licensed, they will still be novice drivers. And if they have not received proper training, the consequences could be lethal.

In the first few months, many new drivers are cautious. Before they become confident, however, they find themselves in a time-squeezing panic that basic driver training did not prepare them to handle. They can be taught.

That is why I routinely re-enters and e-mail messages parents asking about a program that has evolved since 2001 at SkidSchool Advanced Driver Training.

In writing about it again, after another spate of deadly crashes involving teenage motorists in Massachusetts. The parents contact me are looking for help — they are frightened by the prospect of their children getting behind the wheel.

Writing with the hope that yet another parent, like Debbie Barrowclough of Danvers, won't have a story to tell. In 2001, Barrowclough's daughter Melissa died in a car crash. She was a passenger in a car driven by an 18-year-

old who was racing another car on a public road. Since then, Barrowclough has been promoting the advanced driver training program.

I'm also hoping to make the point — one more time — that while we can't always teach teenagers not to do something risky or stupid, we can teach them about sight lines, the power of speed, and the visceral feel of crossing from the edge of control to beyond. Consider these scenarios:

Your 16-year-old is traveling at 35 miles per hour, following a pickup truck through a densely settled neighborhood. The workmen in the truck have not tied their gear down properly, and without warning it goes flying in a slalom-like maze of steel.

Can the young driver avoid the metal, or keep the car from going off the road and hitting a tree or pedestrian?

It may take several controlled turns of the wheel, but it's possible, and your child can learn how to do it.

As students in SkidSchool find out to their surprise, 35 miles per hour can feel extremely fast in an emergency situation.

Remember, too, that here in New England — land of many trees, stone walls, and icy snowbanks — one emergency turn often leads to more.

Your 17-year-old is driving at 65 miles per hour on the interstate. Suddenly, there's a disabled car just over a rise. Does he know to slam the brakes (before turning the

wheel), keep the brakes on, and steer around the disabled car? That's the way it works with ABS.

Your 18-year-old, cocky with more than a year behind the wheel, has a habit of following the car ahead too closely. Has he ever sensed what it would be like to have that car suddenly hit its brakes?

Of course, you can't teach these drills on public roads in high school driver's ed classes.

"That's why they call it advanced driver training," said Barrowclough, who puts up her own money to help sponsor classes.

During class sessions, rubber cones, often laid out on airport runways, are used to replicate real-world challenges. A wall of cones is set up to teach emergency lane changes. A slalom of cones replicates the spilled load of equipment from a truck or the emergency that follows the sudden jerk of a wheel that might happen when a teen changes CDs while driving. The school uses a cone towed behind a chase car, running parallel and ahead of the student's car, to show that even if they are following at the recommended distance of 50 miles per hour, it is difficult to stop without rolling past the chase car.

In 2001, 180 young Massachusetts drivers went through the program. Last year, it was 1,030; the goal this year is 1,500.

Each new student is potentially a life saved, keeping him or her from becoming a member of what advanced driver training advocates call "an army of ghosts."

## SPARE PARTS

ing forces: Carroll Shelby Ford Special Vehicle Team created a modern successor to the Shelby GT500 of the late 1960s. The 2007 car has a 475-horsepower supercharged V8, six-speed manual transmission, race-tuned suspension, four-piston Brembo brakes, racing heritage with aggressive front-end design, Le Mans stripes, unmistakable Shelby nameplate.

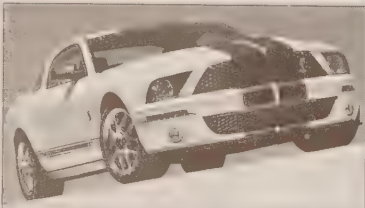
Hyundai is making it more expensive for Hyundai to import cars to the United States. Those risks should be diminished as production ramps up at the Alabama plant. Source: The Detroit Free Press.

Better Mileage: The federal government set gas-mileage goals for the largest sport utility vehicles for the first time and said minivans,

pickup trucks and SUVs as a group must increase their fuel efficiency by 11 percent over the next five years. Big SUVs are hit the hardest under the rule. The rule could force automakers to spend \$6.7 billion to update light trucks with fuel-saving technology needed to meet the new regulations. Source: The Washington Post.

### THE FORD

SHELBY GT500 combines the modern Mustang muscle car with the classic Shelby performance cues.



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THE ALL-NEW 2007 S-CLASS includes first class seating.

## Mercedes-Benz S-Class seats are first class

BY DAVE VAN SICKLE  
MOTOR MATTERS

### DOWN THE ROAD

It wasn't long ago that Mercedes-Benz seats were considered some of the worst in the auto industry. They were hard and flat, making a long trip a pain in the butt, covered with slippery leather and the absence of bolsters which made it impossible to go around a corner without hanging on. But demanding customers and a competitive marketplace have changed all of that.

Buyers of luxury cars want comfort, along with an overall sense of well-being. So over the past few years, Mercedes seating has continually improved to the point where the seats in the all-new 2007 S-Class are arguably the best in the industry. Here's why.

Manual operation of the standard front seats is done with time-honored door switches shaped to mimic the portion of the seat to be adjusted. Using those switches, the driver and passenger can adjust each seat 14 ways, including forward and backward, up and down, and tilt. The seat cushion can be extended or retracted for full thigh support. The seat back angle is adjustable, head restraints can be moved up and down, and lumbar support is adjustable for both height and amount.

Additionally, the 2007 S-Class features a much-improved version of COMMAND, an interface between driver and vehicle. COMMAND offers a wide range of vehicle functions, one of which is seat control, offering many additional seat adjustments for added comfort and convenience. Selecting the seat function from the console-mounted controller, a pictogram of both seats appears on the 8-inch color display, located in the upper center console.

Rotating the COMMAND controller allows selection of different areas of the seats for adjustment. These include seat, back, and shoulder bolsters, along with 20 additional lumbar adjustments. The seat comfort adjustments are accomplished with 15 air chambers located in the seat bottom and seat back. The air chambers are controlled by a series of electronically actuated valves that are supplied with air from a pump located in the trunk. Each seat has its own microprocessor that senses and controls the pressure in each air chamber according to the COMMAND settings.

When the "active lumbar" feature is activated, the center lumbar air chamber "breathes," inflating and deflating about twice

per minute. This slight movement causes the occupant's spinal column to repeatedly change position slightly. Such movement can relax the spine and back muscles, making a long trip more relaxing. If that isn't enough, there's a massage feature with a selection of degrees of firmness.

Turning on the "drive-dynamic" feature activates a system that inflates individual seat cushion bolsters to prevent an occupant's body from tilting when rounding a curve in the road. For example, when turning left, the occupant's body tends to lean to the right, but by inflating the right seat bolster, the body is held in an upright position. The seat bolsters are controlled by the same yaw sensor used in the electronic stability control system. They sense the direction and amount of the turn and send a signal to the seat microprocessor to control the bolsters accordingly.

According to Brad Clark, product development manager for the S-Class, "It's amazing how much energy you expend just holding your body upright, especially on a twisting country road. Optional ventilated seats use electric fans to circulate air through the seat cushion and backrest. Unlike some S-Class competitors that use refrigerated air for seat cooling, the fans draw air from beneath the seats, where the air temperature remains relatively cool, even in a hot car. Mercedes engineers claim that the use of cold air can lead to leg and back pain. The air is then distributed evenly over the entire seat surface by plastic channels and a special ventilation fabric.

With these seats, the leather upholstery is cooled within minutes, even in hot summer temperatures. An active ventilation feature helps dry perspiration and dampness on occupants' clothes. In colder weather, the active ventilation works in concert with electric heating elements to warm the seats more evenly. The "summer opening" feature, which opens the windows and sunroof via the remote locking/unlocking unit, also turns on the seat venting.

With its eight-way adjustable, heated and ventilated rear seats, it's no stretch to say S-Class seating is better than anything you might find in the best commercial first class cabin or any private jet.



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938 Union St - \$229,000  
5916 Vallejo St - \$360,000  
688 Via Rialto - \$488,000  
711 Walker Av 104 - \$510,000  
400 Wayne Av 1 - \$396,000  
349 Wayne Av - \$325,000  
433 W. MacArthur - \$470,000  
6524 Whitney St A - \$585,000  
1856 Woodhaven - \$900,000

## PIEDMONT

201 Park Wy - \$929,000

## RICHMOND

118 15th St - \$599,000  
334 37th St - \$337,000  
556 5th St - \$390,000  
640 8th St - \$466,000  
2515 Baywood - \$450,000  
2964 Birmingham - \$580,000  
5404 Bossey Ct - \$604,500  
5121 Burlingame - \$405,000  
2700 Center Av - \$400,000  
319 Chesley Av - \$160,000  
5060 Escalon Cr - \$672,000

5123 Esmond Av - \$485,000  
4418 Fieldcrest Dr - \$709,000  
5326 Fleming Av - \$450,000  
4200 Fran Wy - \$629,000  
502 Gertrude Av - \$290,000  
2993 Groom Dr - \$540,000  
600 Harrison Dr - \$360,000  
5417 Highland Av - \$599,000  
3218 Highpointe - \$688,500  
5725 Huntington - \$480,000  
1330 Kelsey St - \$450,000  
621 Maine Av - \$419,000  
134 Malcolm Dr - \$525,000  
2538 McBryde Av - \$410,000  
4313 McGlothen - \$375,000  
604 McLaughlin St - \$555,000  
4067 Mozart Dr - \$567,000  
5745 Oakmont Dr - \$728,500  
5757 Oakmont Dr - \$724,000  
5781 Oakmont Dr - \$717,500  
104 Park Ln - \$380,000  
3339 Parkgate Ct - \$450,000  
608 Payne Dr - \$340,000  
2383 Roosevelt Av - \$400,000  
3715 Roosevelt Av - \$500,000  
16 Sanford Av - \$413,000  
503 Sea View Dr - \$887,500  
506 Sea View Dr - \$923,000  
530 Seaciff Pl - \$886,000  
240 South 20th St - \$380,000  
618 South 20th St - \$415,000  
400 South 49th St - \$413,000  
5655 Vista Dr - \$734,000  
5659 Vista Dr - \$730,000  
5345 Zara Av - \$495,000

## SAN LEANDRO

290 2nd Av - \$545,000  
16029 Berkshire - \$485,000  
1196 Burkhardt Av - \$550,000  
15325 Central Av - \$619,000  
669 Fargo Av - \$600,000  
685 Fargo Av - \$600,000  
956 Figueroa Dr - \$525,000  
388 Garcia Av - \$522,500  
518 Kenilworth - \$770,000  
2314 Lakeview Dr - \$875,000  
16277 Liberty St - \$472,000  
16194 Mateo St - \$695,000  
3670 Monterey Bl - \$600,000  
1587 Peters St - \$515,000  
62 Preda St - \$595,000  
915 Rodney Dr - \$560,000  
14960 Saturn Dr - \$470,000  
15092 Thotts St - \$608,000  
16575 Toledo St - \$635,000  
1577 Virginia St - \$465,000  
267 Warren Av - \$975,000  
15335 Washington 101 - \$365,000  
16743 Winding Bl - \$680,000

## SAN LORENZO

609 Drew St - \$655,000  
974 Heather Ln - \$725,000  
16163 Silverleaf Dr - \$660,000

17402 Via Andeta - \$500,000  
16060 Via Del Sol - \$535,000  
17462 Via Julla - \$645,000  
1961 Via Lacqua - \$520,000  
1384 Via Manzanias - \$549,000  
993 Via Manzanias - \$575,000  
15923 Via Pinal - \$540,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$559,451

## PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 1  
PRICE: \$929,000

## RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 46  
LOWEST PRICE: \$160,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$923,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$485,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$524,163

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 23  
LOWEST PRICE: \$365,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$975,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$595,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$597,065

## SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 10  
LOWEST PRICE: \$500,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$725,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$575,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$590,400

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com.

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# Thanks to better metals, rust in cars is a vanishing problem

BY FRANK GREVE  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Victory is at hand in the auto industry's 30-year battle against rust.

No more Ford trucks with tailfins that look like decayed teeth. No more Toyota Celicas with seagull wheel wells. No more cars with college cafeteria trays overflowing rusted-out floor pans.

"Rust has virtually gone away," declared David Champion, director of automotive testing for Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports, the leading U.S. buying guide.

He'll tell it to Mike Duran, manager of the Fairfax, Va., franchise for the nation's busiest car dealer, who says, "If you bought a car in the '70s, you'd have holes in your fenders three years later unless you went straight from the showroom to someone like us," said Duran, 49. Today, his once-competitive competitors are all but extinct, and rust-proofing's down less than a sixth of his business.

Improved body metals that resist rust are the big reason, plus discouraging vehicle designs that better primers, paints and new car costs, but enhanced rust resistance, along with improved corrosion-fighting in coolants and exhaust systems, is a big reason cars last longer, said L. Lee Phelp, 59, of Howell, Mich., who says GM's top rust-fighter.

The improvements are helping longevity. In 1977, half of all passenger cars lasted until they were 10.5 years old, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates. Their travel time was 107,000 miles. By 2001, the latest year tallied — median longevity was 13 years for passenger cars and their travel lifetime was 152,000 miles.

For light trucks, the mileage jumped from 128,000 to 180,000, according to NHTSA, but longevity declined 14 years, largely because more trucks were being built like cars.

Better rust resistance also slows depreciation and keeps resale values up. That hurts new cars, Phelp said, but the gleaming 2002 GMC pickup in his driveway is a trade-off he's happy to make. "It looks as new as the I bought it and it has 100,000

miles on it," he said.

Until the 1960s, rust mainly afflicted cars along the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts and the Gulf of Mexico, according to Robert Baboian of Greenville, R.I., a leading auto industry corrosion consultant. Then, increased use of road salt as a winter deicer spread the rust problem throughout snowy areas of North America as far inland as Minnesota and Iowa.

Accompanying the road salt, whose use went from less than a million tons in 1950 to nearly 19 million in 1994, was an increase in acid rain in the Northeast, Ontario and Atlantic Canada. Where salt air, deicer and acid rain combined to eat cars — in places such as St. John's, Newfoundland, Boston, Montreal, as well as snow-buried Buffalo — classic rust buckets such as Fiats, Chevy Vegas and Land Rovers sometimes ran red before they left dealers' lots.

According to Jeffrey Helms, a top rust-fighter at Ford Motor Co., the rust rate in those cities is about five times that in favorable climates, such as in Inland Texas.

Cars of the '60s and '70s, made of cold rolled steel and painted without additional corrosion protection, offered token resistance to rust, Baboian said. "Even owners who took immaculate care of their cars would soon see a bubbling at the bottoms of their fenders and doors, and there wasn't a thing they could do about it."

To make matters worse, automakers foreign and domestic had begun using thinner steel to reduce weight. A side effect was that it rusted through faster, according to the Auto/Steel Partnership, an alliance based in Southfield, Mich.

Rust forms when iron combines with oxygen to produce iron oxide, a molecule that takes up more space than iron. That's why rust puffs up or flakes on a car's surface. The corrosion accelerates in joints with dissimilar metals due to electrolysis.

To reduce rust, automakers began coating their steel with metals such as aluminum and zinc or their alloys. These metals oxidize, too, but their corrosion products are white, not rust-colored, and less noticeable. When they're present, they oxidize and the steel doesn't.

So automakers turned to zinc alloys or coatings for structural parts and aluminum-steel alloys for body panels, primarily hoods and trunk lids. Surfaces of the new metals, especially those containing zinc, proved hard to paint, however, and automakers discovered that the paint tended to flake off. Dunking the car's body in a phosphate bath solved that problem by creating a thin, clean paintable layer of phosphate crystals on the metal's surface.

Another key strategy was guaranteeing that primers and anti-rust waxes got into hard-to-reach crevices and inner surfaces, such as rocker panels below a vehicle's doors, lower-door cavities and hidden surfaces between the inner and outer metal on hoods and trunk lids. Robots helped, because they proved more reliable painters than people. So did improved sealants and high-temperature waxes and spraying gear that got them deeper into rust-prone voids.

Design also was a big concern. Many cars — including early Toyota Corollas, Datsuns and Chevy Caprices — tended to rust fore and aft of their wheels. That was because their tires kicked up stones that chipped paint. They also kicked up muddy, wet wads of leaves and debris soaked with road salt, which attacked the exposed metal.

The design solutions, according to Piepho, included eliminating joints and pockets in which the wet wads could collect, adding chip-resistant shielding and providing more holes in the vehicles' frames through which corrosion-fighting wax could be sprayed.

The war against rust isn't quite over, said Ford's Helms.

For example, rust protection often is sanded off when a vehicle on the assembly line gets dinged and needs body work. If this happens after it's gotten its phosphate bath and priming, the rust protection may not be as good, Helms said. Early Ford Aerostars and Dodge Caravans, which have big dent-prone side panels, sometimes rusted for this reason, typically in a bull's-eye pattern.

Also troublesome, said Ziebart's Duran, are tailgates on pickups.

"They still do rust, just not the way they used to,"

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4654867 MASTER



# Auctioneer helps collectors fill their garages — and portfolio

BY JIM MATEJA

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Stocks or bonds not doing well?

Try collectible cars.

So says Dean Kruse, proprietor of Kruse International, the Auburn, Ind., auction house that specializes in antique, vintage and classic cars.

"You put stocks and bonds in the safe, but you can have fun driving a collector car and it still is a very good investment," he said.

"There's a lot of people buying collector cars now, especially 30- to 45-year-olds who made a lot of money in computers and electronics."

And with more buyers than cars, prices are high, Kruse said. That's good news for some and not for others.

To assist collectors in the hunt, Kruse each year comes up with his "Dean's List," cars he expects to rise sharply in value during the year.

Nearly all are convertibles, because, as Kruse says, "When the top goes down, the price goes up." Here are his choices for 2006:

## 1929-1938 Model J Duesenberg

A longtime and proven favorite of mine is the Model J Duesenberg, the 1929 through 1938 open-top cars. Around 400 chassis were produced and the Model J has always been the ultimate American classic.

**Expect to pay:** \$750,000 - \$2.5 million.

**Expect that to rise:** 15 percent.

## 1936 Auburn Boat-tail Speedster supercharged

These cars are among the most beautifully designed in the world and, in my opinion, the selling prices are true bargains.

**Expect to pay:** \$275,000 - \$475,000.

**Expect that to rise:** 20 percent.

## 1968 Ford Shelby Mustang GT500 KR convertible

Like most muscle cars, values are shooting up. The King of the Road Shelby is the top-shelf muscle car. These drop-top icons will go up in value.

**Expect to pay:** \$125,000 - \$275,000.

**Expect that to rise:** 20 percent.

## 1967-1968 Ford Shelby Mustang GT350 convertible

These are the Ford enthusiast's dream. The Shelby cars are on a white-hot streak and are much more affordable and, to some, more desirable, than the GT500.

**Expect to pay:** \$95,000 - \$175,000.

**Expect that to rise:** 20 percent.

## 1936 Cord Sportsman Roadster supercharged

A rock solid investment in a

true classic automobile designed by world-class creator, Gordon Buehrig. Watch these rare sculptures.

**Expect to pay:** \$175,000 - \$275,000.

**Expect that to rise:** 20 percent.

## 1964 Ford Galaxie 500 convertible

These cars were offered with a wide range of powertrains in Ford's Total Performance campaign. The designs are bold and undeniably Ford.

**Expect to pay:** \$9,000 - \$20,000, depending on options and engine.

**Expect that to rise:** 19 percent.

## 1936 Chevrolet Rumble Seat Roadster

Vintage Chevrolets are being viewed in a different light. The values for all old Chevys are on a sharp rise. The market will be es-

pecially strong for these seldom-seen roadsters.

**Expect to pay:** \$22,000 - \$42,000.

**Expect that to rise:** 15 percent.

## 1948 Chrysler Town & Country convertible

Collectors and market analysts are referring to these as the modern Duesenbergs. They were the most well-appointed and beautifully designed cars of the day with relatively low production. Someday they may be the first production car from the 1940s post-war-era to slip into the seven figures.

**Expect to pay:** \$80,000 - \$180,000.

**Expect that to rise:** 15 percent.

## 1954 MG TF Roadster

For the investor seeking something non-American, I recommend the 1954 MG TF Roadster. The designs are timeless and captured the

spirit of open motoring as they brought them home after World War II. The TF was a last-attempt to keep the body style alive without revisions. Great examples are a little bit of research to find worth the effort.

**Expect to pay:** \$9,500 - \$25,000.

**Expect that to rise:** 15 percent.

## 1959-1960 Chevrolet Impala convertible

To the beginning car collector, these two years look much like they have wonderful subtle differences in styling. They are long-lived and graceful and could be bought with performance engines.

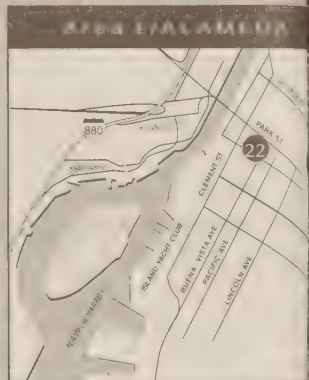
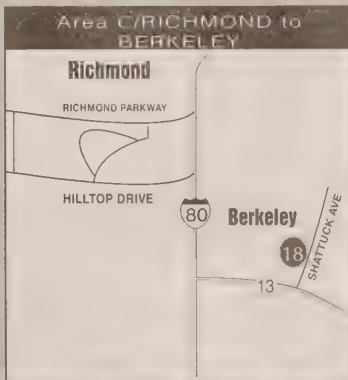
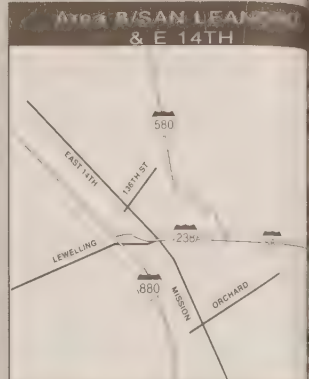
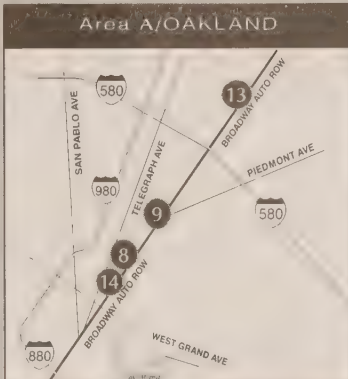
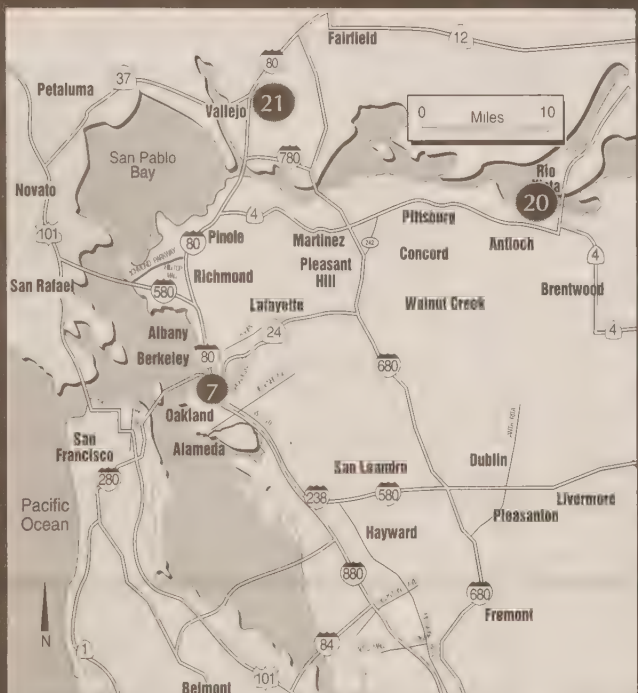
**Expect to pay:** \$18,000 - \$35,000.

**Expect that to rise:** 22 percent.



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Additional details, resume and cover let- ter, please email to: hcrmanorcare@hcr.com or fax to: 925-934-4552 EOE/DF/Free Employer	<b>INSURANCE</b> Republic Indemnity, a leader in the Workers' Compensation field, with a rating of A- (ex- cellent) by A.M. Best, has the following opportunity: <b>CLAIMS ASSISTANT</b> Requires ability to an- alyze and apply infor- mation to resolve is- sues; prioritize tasks to produce high qual- ity work; work in a tight time frame; ex- cel in listening skills. Clerical exp. in a CA W/C environment as well as customer serv- ice exp. pref'd. Consis- tent & reliable attend- ance is mandatory. Competitive salary & comprehensive ben- efits. Send resume to the HR Dept at: <b>REPUBLIC INDEMNITY</b> 100 Pine St., #1400 San Francisco, CA 94111 Fax: 415-954-3445 <b>IT-HELP DESK SPECIALIST</b> The Contra Costa County Employment Center is seeking a Help Desk Specialist for the County of Contra Costa. This is a 6-month contract position with the po- tential for extension. Salary up to \$65/hr DOE; no benifits. Work for a leading healthcare provider. Additional details, resume and cover let- ter, please email to: hcrmanorcare@hcr.com or fax to: 925-934-4552 EOE/DF/Free Employer	<b>LENDING</b> <b>Cal State 9 Credit Unit</b> loan has opening for a loan officer in our fast paced consumer lend- ing department. Will input, analyze and re- view loan applications. Must have credit con- sumer underwriting exp. strong comm and math skills and be computer literate. Cal State office. Great employee benefits. Re- sume & salary reqs. HR-CC PO Box 271768 Concord, CA 94527 Fax 925/363-2750 <b>LOAN AGENTS</b> <b>Aggressive mortgage</b> <b>seeking agents.</b> <b>Great comm. Prefer</b> <b>exp. w/100%+ ratio.</b> <b>Friendly envmt.</b> <b>Res. to phinip@</b> <b>teammakingpro.com</b> <b>925-627-1400</b> <b>LOAN AGENTS AND</b> <b>SALES</b> Look Me Further train. Seeking moti- vated, energetic, self- motivated, ONLY. Honest/Integrity. Ex- per. in sales. Flexi- ble hrs. Tel: 925-887-2164 <b>LOAN AGENTS/RE</b> <b>Agents 24/7 or work</b> <b>from home. Trng Avail.</b> <b>S.R. 925-866-7858.</b> <b>LOAN AGENTS</b> Tired of not supporting your car? Call Mike Mendenhall at Funding 925-831-6069 <b>LOAN AGENTS:</b> Licensed, expe- rienced, Genero- us. Call Mike Mendenhall at Funding 925-831-6069 <b>Loan Officer:</b> Friendly work environ- ment. Top rated process- ing. Loc. through Bay Area Free Training Call 800-920-1086 Diablo Funding Group <b>LOAN OFFICERS/SALES</b> Agents. Call Mike Mendenhall at Funding 925-831-6069 <b>LOAN OFFICER:</b> Licensed, expe- rienced, Genero- us. Call Mike Mendenhall at Funding 925-831-6069 <b>LABORERS-BATT</b> <b>W/hydroblasting exp.</b> <b>&amp; confined space s</b> <b>Fax resume 925.680.4482</b> <b>LANDSCAPE</b> <b>MAINT. FOREMAN</b> <b>IRRIGATION TECH</b> Pd. w/ky. Apply 8-3:30. Landscaping Co. Co. 4026 Pacheco Bl., Mt. Se- habian Web ID CC0323177827 <b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b> <b>PROPERTY CLERK</b> <b>\$3,330-\$4,291/mo (+4%</b> <b>increase 7/06 pend-</b> <b>ing Council approval)</b> Requires a HS diploma or equivalent, a valid CA driver's license and 3+ yrs experience in law enforcement with an emphasis in property identifica- tion. May work nights, wknds, & holidays as needed. <b>APPLY BY: 5</b> <b>p.m., Thurs. April 27,</b> <b>2006.</b> For more info, call the City's Job Hot line at (510) 577-3397 or visit <a href="http://www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us">www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us</a> <b>LEGAL RECEPTIONIST</b> For Danville Law Firm must be org'd prior & energetic, knowledge of word & excel skills. req. gr. bntfs fax res. incl salary reqs to Web ID CC0401795855	<b>MAINTENANCE</b> <b>Equipment Rental</b> <b>Yard Worker</b> Team Up With The Best! Hertz Equipment Rental Corp. (HERC), the recognized leader in the leased industrial equipment and con- struction equipment industry, has an excel- lent opportunity in our Branch. You'll work in a fast-paced rental yard, and possibly on mechan- ical/driving functions. Knowledge of gas and diesel machinery is es- sential. Maintenance abilities a plus. Competitive salary & benefits package. Come be on the best team in the industry. Forward your resume to: HERC, Attn: Branch Manager, 1475 East- shore Hwy, Berkeley, CA 94710. Fax: 510-527-1168. E-mail: dbruce@hertz.com EOE/DF/Free Environment. <b>Hertz Equipment</b> <b>Rental Corp.</b> <b>www.hertzequipment.com</b> <b>MAINTENANCE</b> <b>Facilities Manager</b> <b>Salt: \$73,536-\$91,161/mo.</b> <b>plus excellent man-</b> <b>agement benefits.</b> <b>(Salary subject to City</b> <b>Council approval.)</b> <b>A 2% increase on</b> <b>7/1/06 pending City</b> <b>Council approval.</b> <b>Requires a HS diploma</b> <b>and 5 yrs experience</b> <b>in mgmt. experience</b> <b>related to facilities/</b> <b>buildings or mainte-</b> <b>nance, and public af-</b> <b>airs operations.</b> <b>an accredited college</b> <b>degree in related field</b> <b>is highly desired.</b> <b>The ideal candidate</b> <b>will possess exten-</b> <b>sive, progressive expe-</b> <b>rience in local, state,</b> <b>and/or federal govern-</b> <b>ment or similar public</b> <b>agency. For more info,</b> <b>call the City's Job Hot-</b> <b>line at (510) 577-3397</b> <b>or visit <a href="http://www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us">www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us</a></b> <b>APPLY BY: 5 p.m., APRIL</b> <b>28, 2006. EOE</b> <b>MAINTENANCE</b> <b>Immediate Bldg Needs</b> <b>in Richmond</b> World's leading pro- vider of facilities sys- has imm. needs for a large commercial bldg. Major Maint. Eng's will monitor and re- spond to BAS alarm, low & high pressure boilers, emergency generators, AHU's and chillers. Must be will- ing to work 2nd or 3rd shift, weekends and holidays. <b>Apply now!</b> Call to 714-513-9082 or email <a href="mailto:resumes@encorgroup.com">resumes@encorgroup.com</a> <b>MAINTENANCE Worker</b> <b>(2 Positions)</b> <b>at the San Joaquin</b> <b>Parks/Roadside</b> Salary \$2725-\$3188/mo., commensurate on expe- rience. Perform labor on gen. land- scaping, irrigation re- pairs, etc. <a href="http://www.ci.danville.ca.us">www.ci.danville.ca.us</a> for application & job flyer or call 925/244- 3379. Closes 4/20/06 at 5:00 p.m. EOE	<b>MACHINIST/ SUP V</b> 8-40 hrs. wkd. Incl. GC code programming, GC manual mill & lathe operations, O.C. maintenance. Must have machinist's tools. EOE. Bntfs. 13008 West 41st Antioch, CA 94509 Fax 925-757-7083 <a href="mailto:rittermiller@aol.com">rittermiller@aol.com</a> <b>Web ID CC0411804908</b> <b>MAINTENANCE</b> <b>Antioch</b> r exp. FT. \$55+bnif. Fax res. 530-753-8976. <b>Web ID CC0319173588</b> <b>MAINTENANCE</b> <b>Equipment Rental</b> <b>Yard Worker</b> Team Up With The Best! Hertz Equipment Rental Corp. (HERC), the recognized leader in the leased industrial equipment and con- struction equipment industry, has an excel- lent opportunity in our Branch. You'll work in a fast-paced rental yard, and possibly on mechan- ical/driving functions. Knowledge of gas and diesel machinery is es- sential. Maintenance abilities a plus. Competitive salary & benefits package. Come be on the best team in the industry. Forward your resume to: HERC, Attn: Branch Manager, 1475 East- shore Hwy, Berkeley, CA 94710. Fax: 510-527-1168. E-mail: dbruce@hertz.com EOE/DF/Free Environment. <b>Hertz Equipment</b> <b>Rental Corp.</b> <b>www.hertzequipment.com</b> <b>MAINTENANCE</b> <b>Facilities Manager</b> <b>Salt: \$73,536-\$91,161/mo.</b> <b>plus excellent man-</b> <b>agement benefits.</b> <b>(Salary subject to City</b> <b>Council approval.)</b> <b>A 2% increase on</b> <b>7/1/06 pending City</b> <b>Council approval.</b> <b>Requires a HS diploma</b> <b>and 5 yrs experience</b> <b>in mgmt. experience</b> <b>related to facilities/</b> <b>buildings or mainte-</b> <b>nance, and public af-</b> <b>airs operations.</b> <b>an accredited college</b> <b>degree in related field</b> <b>is highly desired.</b> <b>The ideal candidate</b> <b>will possess exten-</b> <b>sive, progressive expe-</b> <b>rience in local, state,</b> <b>and/or federal govern-</b> <b>ment or similar public</b> <b>agency. For more info,</b> <b>call the City's Job Hot-</b> <b>line at (510) 577-3397</b> <b>or visit <a href="http://www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us">www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us</a></b> <b>APPLY BY: 5 p.m., APRIL</b> <b>28, 2006. EOE</b> <b>MAINTENANCE</b> <b>Immediate Bldg Needs</b> <b>in Richmond</b> World's leading pro- vider of facilities sys- has imm. needs for a large commercial bldg. Major Maint. Eng's will monitor and re- spond to BAS alarm, low & high pressure boilers, emergency generators, AHU's and chillers. Must be will- ing to work 2nd or 3rd shift, weekends and holidays. <b>Apply now!</b> Call to 714-513-9082 or email <a href="mailto:resumes@encorgroup.com">resumes@encorgroup.com</a> <b>MAINTENANCE Worker</b> <b>(2 Positions)</b> <b>at the San Joaquin</b> <b>Parks/Roadside</b> Salary \$2725-\$3188/mo., commensurate on expe- rience. Perform labor on gen. land- scaping, irrigation re- pairs, etc. <a href="http://www.ci.danville.ca.us">www.ci.danville.ca.us</a> for application & job flyer or call 925/244- 3379. Closes 4/20/06 at 5:00 p.m. EOE	<b>MANAGER Asst Trainee</b> Conner's Cleaning Co. in San Ramon. Cust svc field Rep. Person- able w/ people skills. Bilingual. Auto req Start \$24.00. Resu- me to 925-267-2756 <b>MANUFACTURING</b> <b>Open pos. for F/T</b> <b>Mechanic, Union scale</b> <b>&amp; Full bntfs. Apply in</b> <b>person at: Concord</b> <b>Disposal Service,</b> <b>4050 Mallard Dr. Con-</b> <b>cord. Fax 925-306-8190</b> <b>MECHANICS WANTED</b> Open pos. for F/T Mechanic, Union scale & Full bntfs. Apply in person at: Concord Disposal Service, 4050 Mallard Dr. Con- cord. Fax 925-306-8190 <b>Mechanic</b> Fleet Mechanic/ Fleet Manager Tree services co. seek- ing fleet mechanic. Must have experience repairing & maint. lg. trucks; chipper/chai- saw repair exp. a plus. Must have own tools. 4000 health, dental, vacation. 888-969-8733 <b>Web ID CC0409180232</b> <b>MECHANICS WANTED</b> Open pos. for F/T Mechanic, Union scale & Full bntfs. Apply in person at: Concord Disposal Service, 4050 Mallard Dr. Con- cord. Fax 925-306-8190 <b>Mechanic</b> Fleet Mechanic/ Fleet Manager Tree services co. seek- ing fleet mechanic. Must have experience repairing & maint. lg. trucks; chipper/chai- saw repair exp. a plus. Must have own tools. 4000 health, dental, vacation. 888-969-8733 <b>Web ID CC0409180232</b> <b>MECHANICS WANTED</b> Open pos. for F/T Mechanic, Union scale & Full bntfs. Apply in person at: Concord Disposal Service, 4050 Mallard Dr. Con- cord. Fax 925-306-8190 <b>Mechanic</b> Fleet Mechanic/ Fleet Manager Tree services co. seek- ing fleet mechanic. Must have experience repairing & maint. lg. trucks; chipper/chai- saw repair exp. a plus. 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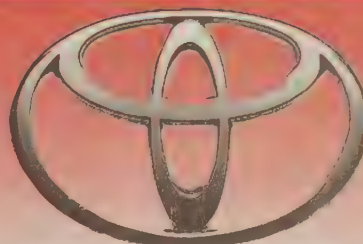
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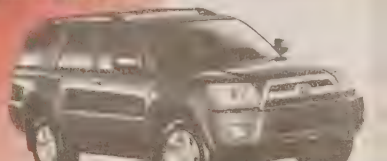
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# Lifestyle

Publication of Hills Newspapers/East Bay Daily News

Advertising Supplement

Friday, April 14, 2006

## Can there be COLOR: Local design coaches create dramatic home improvements

WINNIE SMITH JESSUP  
SPECIAL SECTIONS

Have you ever put on a shirt in dramatic color and been asked, "What way it transforms you look? A coat of paint can turn that to a house, affirms Michele Maggiora, Radicchio Sisters Design, based locally in ???, former restaurateur and deft entrepreneur, the energetic Maggiora is also an artist. She graduated from UC Berkeley in Fine Art Design, and has taught art for years. She teamed up with her friend Terese Allara, a self-taught landscape artist, to form Radicchio Sisters Design, reflecting Italian heritage. Based in Oakland's Temescal Valley, the pair "brainstormed what to do together that would utilize our talents," and the de-

sign firm was born. In the past three years, they have worked on a variety of projects, from preparing homes for sale to staging to color consulting to just "pulling things together" to achieve a new look.

Utilizing simple tactics inside and out, the pair have transformed homes in a number of ways, always seeking to reflect the home's best features and the interests of the homeowner.

One of the simplest, quickest and often the most dramatic way to give homes a new look is with paint. Says Maggiora, "A new color palette can freshen a space faster and more inexpensively than anything else. Not only does color warm and beautify but color can redefine the environment. It can set the mood, open the space, emphasize or de-emphasize a particular area of the home."

She explains, "Using the eye of a good colorist makes the job easy. A colorist can make sure the colors flow, are harmonious and not fragmented, respect the period of the home and work with the client's taste and style."

While many homeowners have good elements in their homes and furnishings, "They need some advice on how to pull it all together," notes Maggiora. "Often all the client needs is to select a few new pieces, as we show them how to regroup and spotlight existing items in their home."

Among recommended changes:

- Place furniture in a new arrangement.
- Group interesting collectibles together rather than scatter them around a room.
- Give rooms negative space, or empty areas, so that the eye is



RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

**MURALS PROVIDE UNLIMITED** possibilities for color and originality to brighten walls. Michele Maggiora painted this mural for a client in Tucson.



RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

**WHAT A DRAMATIC** difference an exterior paint job makes. Before, left and after, top. Michele Maggiora's color-sense is at work in all the photos on this page.

RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN



RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

not overwhelmed.

- Add living or silk plants.
- Re-frame art.
- Recover existing, quality furniture pieces.

"Too many colors, too many things, every space filled — can actually diminish the impact. We believe that sometimes the simplest changes make the greatest waves."

According to Maggiora, many current clients in the area are working women "who want to create change on a moderate budget. It's easy to feel confused by all the choices. Sometimes our role is simply to help clients stay focused and select items that hold their style together. The results can be rewarding."

Citing the popularity of home improvement shows on television, Maggiora says "attitudes are changing and homeowners are now choosing to directly participate in the transformation of their homes."

Radicchio Sisters Design business cards say "color/design/space" and these are certainly prime elements in the pair's services. They

might be more accurately described "home stylist coach" than interior designer, says Maggiora, because they help "coach clients in uncovering their creativity and personal style."

Inside or out, the design coaches help create winning combinations for area homeowners.

Contact Radicchio Sisters Design at 510-444-4472.



RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

**BEFORE, TOP: THE LIBRARY,** seen through doorway from living room, inset. After, left: The library was brought to life with red walls and white trim.



RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

**ANOTHER SIMPLE, QUICK** and affordable way to give homes a new look is with painted furniture. Michele Maggiora painted this piece of furniture for a client.



# These antioxidant-rich foods have the power to change your

BY JILL WENDHOLT SILVA  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Blueberries are brain food.

If there's one good-for-you food that has cut through the din of conflicting and controversial diet headlines, it's the tiny indigo berry native to North America, which scientists have discovered contains powerful disease-fighters that may improve memory, intelligence and coordination.

But blueberries aren't the only food with bragging rights.

Pomegranates, kiwifruit and, yes, even dark chocolate are the latest buzz, joining such everyday foods as broccoli, spinach, wild salmon, sweet potatoes, soy, oats, walnuts and tomatoes. Together these nutrient-dense foods containing health-promoting phytonutrients are being dubbed "super foods."

"Super foods are foods that have longevity and contribute to good health," says Steven Pratt, an ophthalmologist at Scripps Memorial Hospital of La Jolla, Calif., and co-author of the best-selling "SuperFoodsRx" and the new "SuperFoods HealthStyle" (William Morrow, 2005, \$24.95).

"It's foods that are available in markets around the world and make up part of a dietary cuisine," Pratt says. "It's also food that has been studied, and the scientific studies have been peer reviewed."

Cruise the aisles of any supermarket in America, and broccoli is ubiquitous for three reasons: It's easy to buy, it's inexpensive and it's easy to cook. It's also one of the most studied, which is how we know it's one of the most nutritious foods on the planet.

Beyond the traditional vitamins and minerals Mother told us about, scientists have discovered broccoli is also a good source of lutein, an antioxidant available in colorful fruits and vegetables that helps prevent macular degeneration, a condition that can cause blindness in older adults.

But not all super foods are as obvious. Take the goji berry. A Tibetan fruit that tastes like a cross between a cranberry and a cherry, the goji berry has long been con-



TAMMY LJUNGBLAD/KANSAS CITY STAR/KRT  
**BLUEBERRIES PROVIDE** more antioxidants than any other fruit or vegetable.

sidered a medicinal food in Asia. But scientists know little about how it works in the body to promote health.

Nutrition experts agree we've only begun to scratch the surface in our efforts to discover how foods prevent disease in the body. Pratt's first book featured 14 super foods, a term he believes he coined but could not trademark. His second book adds 10 more to an ever-growing list, and there are "side-kicks" galore — related foods that provide similar health benefits.

When Wild Oats Markets began a labeling program last year to educate consumers on the benefits of eating more super foods, the company went beyond naming individual foods to include entire categories of health-promoting foods, including seeds, sea veggies and "green foods" or supplements such as wheat grass, spirulina, chlorella and barley grass.

"The super foods list doesn't keep changing; it keeps getting added to," says Tricia DiPersio, corporate dietitian for the natural foods chain.

One of the most surprising super foods to hit the headlines is dark chocolate. It is loaded with health-promoting polyphenols — antioxidants that may help lower blood pressure and promote vascular health. Cocoa has more polyphenols than red wine or green tea. But to qualify, the chocolate must contain at least 70 percent cocoa solids.

This month Hershey's is introducing an extra dark chocolate that touts antioxidant power equal to three cups of tea, two glasses of red wine or 1 1/3 cups of blueberries. Impressive stats, but the company Web site (www.hersheys.com) points out that scientists are still investigating exactly how antioxidant scores relate to their activity in the body.

"Marketing folks are sometimes way ahead of the science," Pratt warns.

Still, with the \$640 million premium juice market projected to grow to \$1.4 billion by 2008, it's no surprise that Naked Juice is already marketing grab-and-go bottles of juice made from the obscure Brazilian berry known as

acai (pronounced ah-sigh-ee), which is touted to have 10 times the antioxidants of red grapes.

But typically Brazilians pour an avalanche of sugar on acai to tame its tartness. Naked Juice chose to combine the tart berry juice with sweeter apple, banana and white grape juices. "Sometimes with the higher antioxidant fruits, you need to find the right mix of fruits," says Rachel Kenney, education manager for the California-based premium juice company.

In "12 Best Foods Cookbook" (Rodale, 2004, \$21.95), Dana Jacobi highlights foods that are not only loaded with phytonutrients but also have what she calls a certain "voluptuousness." After all, if a food doesn't taste good, most of us won't eat it no matter how good it is for us.

"I tried to look at foods beyond what its headline fame might be," says Jacobi, a New York-based food writer and chef who developed the recipes for her book. "What these 12 foods do — besides providing phytonutrients — is they cover the whole range of what a balanced diet is and include variety."

To that end, she made a choice to leave apples out of the cookbook, even though they taste great, are easy to buy and rate high on the USDA's list of 20 top antioxidant foods. And she chose chocolate over red wine and walnuts instead of almonds, even though red wine and almonds are delicious and possess plenty of proven health benefits.

"What I hope (readers) take from the book is the things that are good for them and have a good time with them. Not to have them feel like this is a duty or a sacrifice," Jacobi says.

Food, after all, should taste better than a spoonful of medicine.

## 12 super foods

When it comes to super foods, there's a lot of compulsive list-making going on. During the holidays, press releases touted the antioxidant powers of turkey (selenium), pumpkin (beta-carotene) and brussels sprouts (glucosinates). Some lists focus on a half



TAMMY LJUNGBLAD/KANSAS CITY STAR/KRT  
**DARK CHOCOLATE HAS** the highest antioxidant content of any food. The darker the chocolate, the higher the count.



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**TOMATOES CONTAIN** lycopene plus a range of beneficial phytochemicals that protect against heart attack, cancers and age-related macular degeneration.

dozen foods; USDA scientists have focused on 100 foods and spotlighted 20. But you can forget the numbers game and feel good about adding any of these to your grocery cart.

## 1. Beans

**Why?** High in folate, fiber and antioxidants, beans can help lower cholesterol and LDL levels, scavenge free radicals, moderate insulin levels and reduce cancer risk.

**How much?** Eat two ½ cup servings a day of cooked or canned beans.

## 2. Blueberries

**Why?** A true nutritional powerhouse, blueberries provide more antioxidants than any other fruit or vegetable. Phytonutrients include anthocyanins, chlorogenic acid, ellagic acid, catechins and resveratrol, substances that fight cancer, heart disease and age-related memory loss.

**How much?** If possible, eat ½ cup fresh or frozen or ¼ cup dried blueberries every day. Eat any type of berry at least three times a week.

## 3. Broccoli

**Why?** Cruciferous vegetables are loaded with antioxidants. Broccoli contains cancer-fighting sulforaphane, indoles and carotenoids plus beta-carotene, lutein and zeaxanthin that promote eye health and ward off macular degeneration.

**How much?** Eat ½ cup raw or 1 cup cooked broccoli every day.

## 4. Oats

**Why?** Oatmeal's already mighty nutrition profile just gets better when phytonutrients — lignans, caffeic and ferulic acids — are stirred into the pot.

**How much?** Eat at least three servings of whole grains a day. A serving equals one cup cooked oatmeal, ½ cup uncooked rolled oats or ¼ cup steel-cut oats.

## 5. Soy

**Why?** An important source of vegetable protein, soy also con-

tains isoflavones, an estrogen-like substance that protects and maintains bone strength. Soy also contains important omega-3 fatty acids, which promote heart health.

**How much?** Eat one serving of soy foods a day. The size depends on the form of soy food. Try edamame for snacking out of hand.

## 6. Spinach

**Why?** Spinach contains more than a Popeye-sized dose of iron. When it comes to antioxidants, it's packed with carotenoids such as beta-carotene and lutein for eye health.

**How much?** Eat at least one cup cooked spinach or dark leafy green vegetable a day.

## 7. Sweet potatoes

**Why?** Loaded with beta-carotene, sweet potatoes boost the immune system. They also reduce cholesterol build up in the arteries and help fight age-related macular degeneration and a variety of cancers.

**How much?** Eat at least one ½-cup serving of sweet potatoes or other beta-carotene-rich produce (carrots, butternut squash, pumpkin and orange bell peppers) a day.

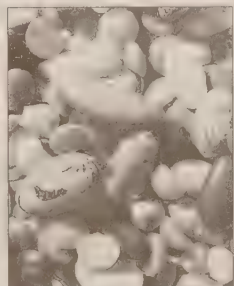
## 8. Tomatoes

**Why?** Tomatoes contain lycopene plus a range of beneficial phytochemicals that protect against heart attack, cancers and age-related macular degeneration. Cooked tomatoes contain more lycopene than raw tomatoes.

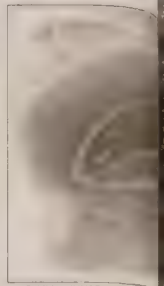
**How much?** Eat one serving a day with a little bit of healthy fat, such as olive oil, to help absorb the lycopene. Servings sizes are one medium raw tomato, about one cup cherry tomatoes, ½ cup sauce, ¼ cup puree, two tablespoons paste or six ounces juice.

## 9. Walnuts

**Why?** If you're looking for an excellent source of "good" polyunsaturated fats, walnuts are one of



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**WILD SALMON CONTAINS** large amounts of omega-3 fatty acid that reduces heart disease and heart attack by lowering blood pressure and bad cholesterol.

the few plant sources of omega-3 fatty acids. Walnuts are the only nuts that contain it, a cancer-fighting antioxidant that reduces the risk of heart attack.

**How much?** Eat 1-2 ounces of nuts per day. One ounce is 14 walnut halves.

## 10. Wild salmon

**Why?** Wild salmon contains large amounts of omega-3 fatty acid that reduces the risk of heart attack, lowers blood pressure and bad cholesterol. Omega-3s also reduce inflammation that triggers autoimmune diseases.

**How much?** A serving is three ounces, roughly the size of a deck of cards, or ¼ cup. Eat 12 ounces a week.

## 11. Extra-virgin olive oil

**Why?** The monounsaturated fats of olive oil are called "good" fat that reduces the risk of heart disease, lowers blood pressure and prevents cancer.

**How much?** Eat one spoon most days.

## 12. Dark chocolate

**Why?** Dark chocolate has the highest antioxidant content of any food. The darker the chocolate, the higher the count.

**How much?** Eat at least one serving daily. Also, try green tea and polyphenols, which boost cholesterol. In addition, chocolate candy, try nibs. Although sometimes they have an intense, bitter flavor, like wine.

Sources: "12 Best Foods Cookbook" and "SuperFoods HealthStyle"

See SUPER Page



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en

# rotting superstars

It comes to phytonutrients say we've only the surface. With each day, watch for more and rich foods to arrive at a new you. Here are a few new buzz:

**Granate:** The newest re-coming out is pointing to nates as the next great and powerhouse, with three antioxidant power than red wine. Pom, the machine behind pome- has trademarked the Antioxidant Super-They say it's dental floss arteries," says Tricia corporate dietitian for

**ah-sigh-ee):** Touted to 10 times more antioxi- red grapes and 10 to more anthocyanins than the little berry from the rainforest is poised to way into American and diets. The acai con- vitamin C and berry acids 6 and 9.

**go-gol (go-gol):** A berry that is high in antioxi- gol is described at superfoods.com as a between a cherry and a "There's not a lot of sci- it, but you know there's berry on the planet," says Pratt, author of "Super-HealthStyle" (Morrow).

**Kiwifruit:** An odd-look- nut originally from New it has become a main- supermarket item. Rich in C, it has more vitamins than a banana and a bowl of bran according to a press re- son Zespi Kiwifruit.

**kean-wah):** With the an emphasis in the 2005 guidelines, watch for less fa- vours to make it into the main- staple of the ancient In- is considered a complete because it contains all eight amino acids.

**ngo**  
**nutrients:** These natural nds are found in plants, pear to be potent disease because of their antioxi- parties.

**ndants:** Think of antioxi- rust fighters. They pro- duce from rust (oxidation) radicals. Oxidation is the because it speeds up ag- wards to disease.

**enoids:** Found in red, or- yellow pigments in fruits

and vegetables, carotenoids in- clude beta-carotene, one of the best-known antioxidants, as well as lutein, lycopene and zeaxanthin.

**Polyphenols:** A large group of antioxidants, including anthocy- canins, catechins, ellagic acid, quercetin and other substances. Source: "12 Best Foods Cook- book" by Dana Jacob.

## Buyer beware

Not sure your chocolate is dark enough? Steven Pratt, author of "SuperFoods HealthStyles," had mass market chocolates tested. Here are the brands that came out on top:

■ Newman's Own Sweet Dark Chocolate: 955 milligrams total polyphenols.

■ Dove Silky Dark Chocolate: 811 milligrams.

■ Endangered Species Chocolate Company Wolf Bar (with cran- berries and almonds): 811 mil- ligrams.

■ Cadbury Royal Dark Indulgent Dark Chocolate: 765 milligrams.

■ Hershey's Special Dark Mildly Sweet Chocolate: 739 milligrams.

■ Chocolat de Dina Extra Dark Chocolate with Green Tea: 676 milligrams.

## How super foods measure up

How can you tell which foods have the most phytochemicals? Scientists at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston have developed the ORAC scale that measures the Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity of various foods. Blueberries score 3,000 units, while dark chocolate tips the scales at 13,000 units.

Although you will not find ORAC numbers on a nutrition label, it may be only a matter of time. "To remain competitive, I think anything that touts antioxidants will need a com- parison of where they are on the ORAC scale," says Rachel Kenney, education manager for Naked Juice, a California-based super premium juice company that mar- kets a line of "super food" and "an- ti-oxidant" beverages.

## CHOCOLATE-NUT BROWNIES

¾ cup natural cocoa, sifted  
½ teaspoon baking soda  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup unsalted butter, melted  
½ cup boiling water  
1 1/3 cups sugar  
2 large eggs, lightly beaten  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour  
¾ cups walnuts  
2 ounces bittersweet (70 per- cent) or dark chocolate, chopped  
Preheat the oven to 350 de- grees. Coat a 9-inch square bak- ing pan with cooking spray and set aside.

In a mixing bowl, whisk to- gether the cocoa, baking soda,

salt, butter and the boiling water. Mix in the sugar, eggs and vanilla. Fold in the flour until just com- bined with the wet ingredients. Spread the batter in the prepared pan and sprinkle the nuts and chocolate over the batter.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely on a wire rack. Cut into 16 squares. These brownies keep, wrapped in foil, for 3 days.

Makes 16 servings.  
Source: "12 Best Foods."

## WHOLE-WHEAT SPAGHETTI WITH BROCCOLI AND SUN-DRIED TOMATOES

1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
Red pepper flakes, to taste  
2 to 3 sun-dried tomatoes, packed in oil, drained and sliced  
1 cup broccoli, cut into florets  
2 cups whole-wheat spaghetti, cooked, reserve ½ cup water from cooked pasta

½ jar Wild Oats brand organic mushroom pasta sauce

1 tablespoon capers, drained

2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, shredded

Heat oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add garlic and red pepper flakes. Don't let garlic burn. Add tomatoes and broccoli. Saute for 1 minute. Add pasta wa- ter, cover and cook for 4 minutes. Stir in pasta. Add sauce and ca- pers. Toss to coat evenly. Cook 2 minutes longer. Divide into 2 serv- ings and garnish with Parmesan.

Makes 2 servings.  
Source: "The Superfoods Super You! Healthy Eating Plan" (Wild Oats, \$1).

## PATTY'S PUMPKIN PUDDING

¾ to 1 cup sugar  
2 to 4 teaspoons cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon ground ginger, optional

¼ teaspoon ground cloves, optional

2 large eggs (use eggs with omega-3 content, as noted on la- bel)

1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin puree

1 (12-ounce) can evaporated nonfat milk

Mix all the ingredients together and pour into an 8-by-8-inch casse- role and bake in a preheated 350 de- gree oven for about 30 minutes. Don't overbake; the center should be slightly wiggly. Cook and enjoy or refrigerate for later use.

Per serving: 85 calories (14 percent from fat), 1 gram total fat (trace saturated fat), 49 milligrams cholesterol, 14 grams carbohy- drates, 5 grams protein, 60 mil- ligrams sodium, 2 grams dietary fiber.

Makes 9 servings.  
Source: "SuperFoods Health- style."

# Decorating to stay

ARA

We've all heard the tips on how to decorate to sell your house — keep colors neutral, get rid of clutter, and arrange furniture to make rooms appear more spacious. But what if you don't want to sell your home — you want to stay? How do you decorate with that in mind? Luckily, there are no rules when it comes to decorating your own home. Here, find advice and resources that will help you add your own personal touches to your decorating endeavors.

## Do your homework

The first step to successful de- sign is figuring out what you like in décor. Flip through design books and magazines and pay attention to which types of styles you enjoy, cut- ting out pictures of things you like. Watch the wide variety of design shows on television and visit model homes. Jot down lots of descriptive notes to help you capture everything you like. Ask yourself questions like: "Is this room too formal or casual for me? Are the colors too light or too dark? Is it too busy or is there too much empty space?" These are great ways to figure out what sorts of design elements you enjoy.

"You always hear about creating a 'need versus want' list when look- ing to buy a home," says Patricia Olson, president of Patrician Group, Inc., a design firm based in the Chicago area. "The same rings true when decorating a home you plan on living in for years. If you've de- cided you want to live in your home for years to come, do you want to spend your budget on new furniture or flooring? Do you need to spend that money elsewhere on decorative items? What items do you want, but aren't necessary? Making these de- cisions will help you move forward with your design plans."

## Use the Web for resources

The Internet has made research and planning easier than ever — and it's right at your fingertips! If you're not sure whether you are more cas- ual or formal in your decorating tastes, you can take quizzes online to find out. Visit "Better Homes and Gardens" online at [www.bhg.com](http://www.bhg.com) to take their decorating attitude quiz and home in on your personal style. Also check out their "Arrange-a-Room" page to use their home de- signer software. This program allows you to redecorate without ever leav- ing your chair! You can lay out rooms and decide how many pieces of fur- niture you can fit and try different ways of arranging them.

To learn about color choices and what works best for your space, visit Glidden Paints online at [www.glid- den.com](http://www.glid- den.com) and use their Color@Home Paint Visualizer to see what various colors will look like in a room.

Also try Lowe's How To Library

at [www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com) for project ideas and strategies and HGTV at [www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com) to learn more about the projects you see on their shows.

If you're looking to make prod- uct choices, turn to the online world and spend your time making deci- sions from the comfort of your own couch instead of spending hours de- bating in the aisles. Many manuf- acturers have put their entire product offerings online for customer view- ing. For instance, Creative Special- ties International, a division of Moen Incorporated that makes stylish ac- cessories for the bath, recently launched a Web site at [www.csi.moen.com](http://www.csi.moen.com) where con- sumers can browse all of their styles in different finishes and learn where they can purchase these items.

"We heard from consumers that they wanted the ability to see all our collections and styles online so they could go to the store prepared to make their purchase," says Mike Bauer, senior director of marketing & product development at Creative Specialties International. "Now, a homeowner who wants to make a bold, personal statement in the bath can take their time perusing all of our collections. Some of our finishes like wrought iron and oil rubbed bronze are a perfect way to enliven the bath and make a unique statement. Chrome might be the finish of choice in neutral bath décor for on-the-mar- ket homes, but if you're decorating to stay, you have a lot more options, and the web is a great place to learn about them."

The CSI Web site also includes many bathroom pictures, so con- sumers can see what the accessories they're eying will look like installed. They can also draw inspirations from the decorating themes used in the rooms, which will help in your next step — adding personality.

## Designer tips

When you want to live in your home for years, the design options seem to expand exponentially. Here are some additional tips from Olson

on decorating to stay and giving your home a dose of personality.

"A great way to personalize a space is to design around a theme. Whether it's a sports theme for the den, Tuscan luxury for the living room, or Asian simplicity in the bath, choosing a theme and sticking with it helps personalize the decorating process," says Olson. Some lead- ing consumer products companies, such as Creative Specialties Inter- national, have even categorized their designs by theme to help consumers naturally narrow down their search amidst numerous product choices. CSI's products come in categories of Traditional, Casual and Country, making product selections a breeze.

Don't overlook the details when decorating to stay — it can be the little touches that make a house your home. To make the space your own, look into accents like crown mold- ing, wainscoting/beam board, tiling and stenciling. Even small touches like installing a decorative tank lever in the bath to match your ac- cessories can make a big difference. Creative Specialties International has decorative tank levers in a number of styles and finishes to match every décor. Hanging more items on the walls also makes a room cozier. Mir- rors are an excellent way to open up a small space and lengthen a room.

Take a look at your flooring op- tions as well. When you're only con- cerned about what will suit you, you can make a jovial kitchen or bath by featuring bright tiles and unique color pairings. Don't be afraid to make a fun statement in black and white or purple and yellow. If you're replac- ing carpeting, skip the neutral browns and beiges and find your fa- vorite color on the palette.

And don't forget about windows and fixtures. You can skip basic blinds and layer fabrics in your fa- vorite hues for personalized window treatments. Also consider replacing basic lighting fixtures with dangling chandeliers in striking finishes.

Whatever your choices, don't be concerned with what's trendy at the moment or what seems to please others. If you're planning to live there for a good amount of time, make decorating choices that will make you happy for years to come.

— Patricia Olson, president of Patrician Group, Inc.

"You always hear about creating a 'need versus want' list when looking to buy a home," says Patricia Olson, president of Patrician Group, Inc., a design firm based in the Chicago area. "The same rings true when decorating a home you plan on living in for years."

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Hurry! Entry deadline is April 19, 2006.

For details, visit our website:

[www.kiwanis-srv.org](http://www.kiwanis-srv.org)

(go to the Parade Button Section)

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# Create something green to envy

BY JACKIE BURRELL  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Wisteria Lane's exquisite hydrangeas, perfectly groomed lawns and verdant shrubs hide a multitude of secrets from snoopy neighbors. But it only took your neighbors a month to catch on to your terrible secret: You can't even keep pansies alive.

Everyone loves the idea of a lush spring garden. The horticulturally gifted actually have them. The rest of us get as far as the entrance to the nursery. We're waylaid by trowels, distracted by the sharp scent of bagged mulch, and overwhelmed by the endless rows of plants in plastic pots.

Soil amendments? Nitrogen? Phosphates?

All you wanted were some pretty flowers. No one said anything about chemistry. And when you're asked how many yards of mulch you need, you don't even know what to say. You only have the one back yard and what is this "mulch" of which they speak?

Take heart, says Orchard Nursery's Bonnie Brusseau. Novice gardeners don't need to know how or why things work. They just need to know two things: the importance of this mulch stuff, and the difference between annuals and perennials.

So, you too can have a beautiful spring garden, even if you've

killed every pansy or marigold you've ever touched.

"Um, you planted annuals," Brusseau says patiently. "They have a short life span."

OK, so the difference between a perennial and an annual is that perennials don't die at the end of the season. They may wilt and turn brown, but they'll bloom again next year, perennially, as it were. And you're not a pansy killer. Annuals are one-shot bloomers. Once the flowers are gone, no amount of fertilizer or tears will bring them back. Get over it.

But what about the lush flower beds at the mall, you ask, where pansies bloom forever? Or Bree Van



RANDALL BARNES DOES SOME UPKEEP to the annuals section at The Orchard Nursery.

De Kamp's hydrangeas? Her perennials never turn brown.

"We're really spoiled," Brusseau says. "We kind of expect our lawns to be green year-round, our beds to be colorful."

You can't have cinematic hydrangeas, says Brusseau. But with a no-brainer "oooo, that's pretty" approach — and advice from local nursery staffers — even neophytes can create a perennially blooming perennial garden in about a year. Other than the initial mulch-fest, the time investment is minimal. You won't need a degree in botany. You won't even need a shopping list.

You will, however, need mulch. As soon as there's a break in the weather, dash outside and start spreading a 2-inch-thick layer of organic matter — shredded bark, cocoa bean hulls, small-sized redwood bark, or anything labeled "mulch" at the nursery — over your

flower beds-to-be.

Then go back inside. Watch "Lost," write the Great American Novel, whatever. Let the wonders of rain, sun and decomposition do their magic. In two weeks, the soil in your flowerbed will be dramatically easier to work with. The nursery will be buzzing with thoughts of spring. And you will be going shopping for just one thing: a perennial that's currently in bloom at your local nursery.

Talk with nursery staffers about what might thrive, given your garden's micro-climate and exposure to sun. Then pick a blooming perennial that you like — "Oooo, that's pretty" — and buy five of them.

Back in your garden, dig the well-percolated mulch into the soil beneath, mixing and turning to blend. Then plant your pretty perennials — spacing them randomly so it doesn't look like Pythagoras helped you. Tuck in a few annuals if your

new floral border looks like it needs to add another inch-thick layer of mulch to the bed, to keep the organic matter around the plants. The mulch decompounds the soil and keeps it moist. And as the mulch breaks down, the soil gets better. Besides, says Brusseau, it looks finished.

Now, wash your hands. You're done for now.

In a month or so, go to the nursery and see what's new. Pick a pretty one, plant it. And six weeks later, do it again. "Instead of poring over gardening books, go out and see what Brusseau says. 'Go see and see what you like of the year, you've got a perennial border.'"

And here you thought you were a pansy killer.



PAM DICKSON, left, and Anita Albrecht shop with a cart filled with annuals and a shrub at The Orchard Nursery.

## Not just for the dryer anymore

NAPSI

On average, people put more than five loads of laundry in the dryer each week. Many of those loads contain dryer sheets, used to control static and infuse the clothes with a light scent. Dryer sheets, however, are increasingly making their way out of the laundry room and into other parts of the home.

For example, home researchers at Procter & Gamble recommend using dryer sheets:

- In the linen closet to help keep linens smelling fresh day after day;
- In shoes to help give odors the boot;
- In the gym bag to give odors a workout;

- In dresser drawers for fresher sweaters, lingerie and socks;
- Behind curtains to help freshen the whole kitchen;
- In the diaper bin to give it a clean, fresh scent.

These are all great, useful ideas, and by logging on to [www.BounceEverywhere.com](http://www.BounceEverywhere.com), you can find additional dryer sheet uses with some surprising benefits. In addition to the tips recommended by P&G, the following is just a small collection of ideas suggested by consumers like you across the country:

- Got a white streak on your clothes from your deodorant? Just take a used Bounce sheet and wipe it lightly across to remove the stain.

- Put a dryer sheet in the air conditioning vent — it will make the whole house smell fresh and clean.

- Use Bounce in the shower to clean soap scum. Just wet the sheet, rub and rinse. It breaks up the soap scum on glass doors and leaves them sparkling.

- When putting clothes away for the season, put a fabric sheet or two in the storage bag/container for freshness next season.

- Clean away stubborn food. Put a Bounce sheet in the pan and let it soak overnight.

For more information, log onto [www.BounceEverywhere.com](http://www.BounceEverywhere.com).

Please recycle

## Earth Day electronic waste collection event

UNIVERSAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Universal Waste Management, a state-approved collector for electronic waste, has scheduled consumer drop-off dates as part of Earth Day observances. The collections are in Concord and Orinda.

■ "UnWaste Your World On Earth Day" at the Chronicle Pavilion.

Presented by Bill Graham Presents, The Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary Club, and Universal Waste Management, Inc. and benefiting the Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary Club.

Drop off items at 2000 Kirker Pass Road, Concord, Friday, April 21, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

■ Or, go to the the Orinda BART Station on Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m.

- 3 p.m. This event is presented by The City of Orinda and Universal Waste Management, Inc. at Orinda BART, 11 Orinda Way, Orinda.

Use these days and sites to turn in the following electronic items: Computers, computer monitors, computer components, printers, fax machines, copiers, televisions, VCR and DVD players, toner cartridges, telephone equipment, cellular phones and MP3 players.

Universal Waste Management does not accept household appliances at recycling events.

In advance of visiting these collection sites, by going online to [www.unwaste.com](http://www.unwaste.com) and clicking on the "Verification form." Completed form with you.

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# Taking your deck to the next level

ARA  
Turning the backyard into an outdoor living retreat is one of the latest trends among American homeowners. It makes sense; with televisions, computers and phones nearly every room of the house, the backyard deck is the final safe haven from life's pressures. Escaping to a quiet corner of the yard provides a necessary respite.

But don't be fooled. Creating a relaxing setting takes more than a laid-back approach. There's work to be done before it will feel like a restful place, and one of the most important tasks is to do some thoughtful planning. Creative thinking will pay off in a big way when your deck turns into a favorite spot for your whole family.

Today's decks are a far cry from rectangular slabs of yesterday. They serve different purposes than simply sunbathing and grilling, and they are being designed and built accordingly. In developing your concept for an outdoor retreat, be sure to consider the following:

**Layout**

It all begins with knowing the activities you'd like to include on the deck. How much area is needed to comfortably accommodate every activity? The average size deck is 300 to 400 square feet, and the more activities you want to enjoy the outdoor experience, the larger deck required.

Having those activities in mind help you divide the deck into different zones — one for the grill, one for the hot tub, one for a sitting area. You may want to consider giving each zone its own level. Levels are a great way to define areas — a few steps up or down gives the illusion you've entered a new space. Another way to distinguish

deck areas is to change the deck board direction; an angle change or unique board pattern provides the subtle indication that you're in a separate deck area.

"Many of my customers are requesting distinctive board designs lately. One of the most requested is an octagon inlay underneath a cedar table," according to Tim Meisch, owner of Custom Cedar Decks in Mill Creek, WA. "It's so unique, people often mistake it for a decorative rug."

Traffic flow affects the usability of your deck. It's all about remembering the practical realities. For example, dining areas require extra space. Grilling areas should be close to the kitchen so you're not shuttling things back and forth more than necessary. If you want to include a conversation area with a warm fireplace for people to gather, make sure you will have enough room to move around safely and comfortably.

Weather conditions can also impact layout. If you need protection from the beating rays of the sun or protection from the wind, a sheltered spot under a canopy of trees might be sensible. Or, consider building an arbor or roof over the dining area to create more of an indoor feeling and a transition to the outdoor setting.

When choosing a grilling area location, think about the prevailing winds and pick a spot where the smoke blows away from the guests and cook. And try not to isolate the grill, as this is a common gathering area for pre-meal conversations.

**Decking materials**

One great way to make a seamless transition between the indoors and outdoors is by incorporating a decking material that gives the impression it is an extension of the

room inside. This can be done through the right selection of color and material.

While a number of imitation products have hit the market in recent years, all-natural western red cedar remains one of the most widely favored and versatile decking materials. Many people choose western red cedar due to its aesthetic appeal

and physical properties. For centuries, cedar has been known for its exceptional beauty, versatility and longevity. Cedar brings an exceptional all-natural look, aroma and character to outdoor spaces.

"Natural qualities of western red cedar make it an excellent choice for a wide range of building projects both inside the home and outside the home," says Peter Lang, general manager of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association. "It is one of the most environmentally-friendly building materials you can

use. It's naturally durable without the need for chemical treatment, dimensionally stable, resilient, and lightweight — unlike some plastic or imitation wood products."

**Decorating**

Placing some furniture just outside the main deck entrance provides a smooth segue between spaces and invites guests to move freely between the indoors and outdoors. Choose cushioned fabrics to visually tie the interior and exterior together for a cohesive look.

Built-in benches add both style and function to your deck. They are a great way to capitalize on longer stretches of decking with unobstructed views. Adding western red cedar planter boxes at select locations can create focal points. You can also add a birdbath to bring another dimension of enjoyment.

With the right planning, you'll be able to create an outdoor paradise that will become a welcome respite from the hectic pace of everyday life. For more information visit [www.realcedar.org](http://www.realcedar.org).



CREATIVE THINKING WILL pay off in a big way when your deck turns into a favorite spot for your whole family.

## Choosing trim for your home's exterior

ARA  
Whether you are building a new home or remodeling an existing one, you want your house to look its best inside and out. It's important, you want it to look that year after year with as little maintenance as possible, right?

One simple way to set your home apart from your neighbors is to install or replace the exterior wood trim that frames your windows and doors, caps roof lines and serves as column wraps,

porch trim, corner arches and a variety of other decorative applications. It is an excellent finishing touch and a convenient and inexpensive way to accent the beauty of your home's style.

When choosing an exterior trim, material selection is perhaps the most important factor. Available materials include wood, engineered wood composites, hardboard and PVC. Wood products such as redwood, cedar and primed spruce, can look great

when first installed, but may split and swell over time. Many homeowners also complain about paint peeling, chipping and discoloration of wood trim, as well as warping and decay.

Hardboard trim products are made of two pieces of hardboard siding that are glued together. Over time and with extended outdoor exposure, these products may separate and lose their durability, requiring additional maintenance and repair. PVC products

may expand or contract with temperature variations, are not environmentally friendly, and cost two to three times that of engineered wood composite trim boards.

Engineered wood composite trim is a functional, economical and easy-to-use option. Some composite trim is treated to withstand harsh weather conditions and to provide enhanced performance.

For instance, MiraTEC Treated Exterior Composite Trim from CraftMaster Manufacturing, Inc.

(CMI) is treated with zinc borate and made with phenolic resins to offer moisture, rot and termite resistance. Hardboard trim products do not offer such protection. Additionally, MiraTEC Trim is coated with a mildew-resistant primer on four sides, making it easy to paint, thus eliminating the need to repaint as often as standard wood trim products.

Available in 16-foot boards, as well as a variety of thicknesses and widths, CMI's MiraTEC Trim delivers enhanced durability and performance in non-structural trim applications. It is reversible to meet any home's style. The smooth side offers a contempo-

rary look, while the side with a warm-cedar texture is perfect for traditional homes.

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For more information or a free brochure call 800-255-0785 or visit [www.miratectrim.com](http://www.miratectrim.com).

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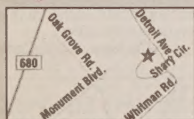
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